

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/10/2018 4:19:54 AM
To: Ari Natter [anatter5@bloomberg.net]
Subject: Re: (BN) EPA Chief of Staff Says He, Not Pruitt, Authorized Big Raises

The Atlantic is a liberal rag. Ok though.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA

Ex. 6

On Apr 10, 2018, at 12:15 AM, Ari Natter (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <anatter5@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Appreciate the response man. And good to hear from you! I guess neither one of us expected things would get so crazy. Any chance we could meet up to talk...strictly on background or even off the record if that works. Hang in there dude.

Sent from Bloomberg Professional for iPhone

EPA Chief of Staff Says He, Not Pruitt, Authorized Big Raises
2018-04-10 03:29:19.24 GMT

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy and Ari Natter
(Bloomberg) -- The Environmental Protection Agency's chief of staff said on Monday night that he, and not his boss, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, was responsible for substantial raises that were given to two top aides.
The chief of staff, Ryan Jackson, also said that the raises, worth tens of thousands of dollars, had been "reversed."
Pruitt had come under fire for the raises, which were granted despite White House objections. He has also faced intense criticism -- and calls for his resignation -- for taking first-class flights, spending millions of taxpayer dollars on his security detail, and renting a room in a Capitol Hill condominium owned by the wife of an energy lobbyist for \$50 a night.
"Administrator Pruitt had zero knowledge of the amount of

the raises, nor the process by which they transpired," Jackson said in an emailed statement that was first reported by Politico, adding that "these kind of personnel actions" are handled by the agency's human resources officials, the Office of Presidential Personnel and him.

"Both individuals were to be paid at a level similar to their peers given their responsibilities over the past year.

Their original salaries started lower than peers due to previous salary history having moved to the Washington, D.C. area."

The two aides had worked for Pruitt when he was Oklahoma's attorney general. Jackson, who is also from Oklahoma, came to the EPA from the Senate, where he had worked for one of the state's two Republican senators, James Inhofe.

The changes in salary have now been reversed, pursuant to an instruction from Pruitt, Jackson said. Future salary change requests will be submitted through the Office of Presidential Personnel for evaluation, he added.

President Donald Trump has so far defended Pruitt, who has been an ardent advocate of the administration's deregulation agenda.

Pruitt, in an interview last week on Fox News, said he did not authorize the raises, and that he did not know who did.

"It should not have been done," Pruitt said. "There will be some accountability."

To contact the reporters on this story:

Jennifer A. Dlouhy in Washington at jdlohy1@bloomberg.net;

Ari Natter in Washington at anatter5@bloomberg.net

To contact the editors responsible for this story:

Jon Morgan at jmorgan97@bloomberg.net

John Harney, Jason Koutsoukis

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/18/2018 11:18:13 PM
To: Minoli, Kevin [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c9c0070d651a4625ac20258369f9b050-KMINOLI]; Leopold, Matt [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4e5cdf09a3924dada6d322c6794cc4fa-Leopold, Ma]; Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]
CC: Ford, Hayley [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4748a9029cf74453a20ee8ac9527830c-Ford, Hayle]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Hupp, Millan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=92cac7b684b64f90953b753a01bee0d5-Hupp, Milla]
Subject: RE: Questions regarding Pruitt coach flights to Tulsa

That is true. Those edits in red are ok with me.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Minoli, Kevin
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 6:12 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Ford, Hayley <ford.hayley@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions regarding Pruitt coach flights to Tulsa

Hi Folks- When I was asked to help draft a statement I did not understand that the quote was going out under my name. In the future we need to be clear on that. Unfortunately, the quote is being followed by this statement calling it disingenuous:

- Former Office of Government Ethics director Walter Shaub said Wednesday the companion tickets provided to Pruitt likely violated a federal prohibition that bars officials from accepting gifts from their subordinates exceeding \$10. Shaub said the value of the gift is determined not by what Wagner actually paid for the ticket, but what the full market value would have been had the ticket been purchased with cash.

"EPA's discussion of the discounted price that the donor paid is disingenuous," said Shaub, who resigned last year after clashing with President Donald Trump on ethics issues. "In this case, EPA should look to see what Pruitt would have had to pay if he had purchased the ticket on the day that he accepted the gift of free airfare from his subordinate."

I do not know how it was provided to the press but if it is being attributed to me and being misunderstood we need change it rather than continue to use it. Here is a replacement version:

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

I need to leave the office but am reachable by phone on **Ex. 6** I ask that we send this corrected version to whatever outlets we sent the first version. If there is a better way to correct the misunderstanding of the statement I am happy to hear about those as well.

Thanks, Kevin

Kevin S. Minoli

Principal Deputy General Counsel
Office of General Counsel
US Environmental Protection Agency
Main Office Line: 202-564-8064

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 2:47 PM
To: Minoli, Kevin <Minoli.Kevin@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Ford, Hayley <ford.hayley@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions regarding Pruitt coach flights to Tulsa

Let's just go with this.

From: Minoli, Kevin
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 2:43 PM
To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Ford, Hayley <ford.hayley@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions regarding Pruitt coach flights to Tulsa

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Kevin S. Minoli

Principal Deputy General Counsel
Office of General Counsel
US Environmental Protection Agency
Main Office Line: 202-564-8064

From: Leopold, Matt
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 2:16 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Ford, Hayley <ford.hayley@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>; Minoli, Kevin <Minoli.Kevin@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions regarding Pruitt coach flights to Tulsa

Importance: High

Kevin has worked with Ken on this issue. Ccing him here to help.

Matthew Z. Leopold

General Counsel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(202) 564-8040

From: Wilcox, Jahan

Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 2:11 PM

To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>

Cc: Ford, Hayley <ford.hayley@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Questions regarding Pruitt coach flights to Tulsa

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

On Apr 18, 2018, at 2:07 PM, Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov> wrote:

For review:

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

ON BACKGROUND:

The companion pass is for Southwest Airlines. Southwest does not have various classes – however, he was always seated in the first row of the plane.

From: Ford, Hayley

Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 1:54 PM

To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions regarding Pruitt coach flights to Tulsa

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Hayley Ford

Deputy White House Liaison and Personal Aide to the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

ford.hayley@epa.gov

Phone: 202-564-2022

From: Bowman, Liz

Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 1:50 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Ford, Hayley <ford.hayley@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions regarding Pruitt coach flights to Tulsa

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Wilcox, Jahan

Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 1:49 PM

To: Ford, Hayley <ford.hayley@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Questions regarding Pruitt coach flights to Tulsa

Hayley do you have anything in regards to the buddy pass? Or can you track it down.

On Apr 18, 2018, at 1:42 PM, Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org> wrote:

Liz, Jahan,

AP is preparing to report that EPA records confirm that Administrator Pruitt flew in coach-class seats to Oklahoma on at least two occasions last year when the agency wasn't paying for his ticket. Both instances were for legs of EPA-funded trips on which Ken Wagner was traveling with the administrator.

You'll remember that AP reported earlier this month that an EPA official said Pruitt flew home on weekend trips for Oklahoma Sooners football games using a companion pass obtained with Wagner's frequent flyer miles. Ethics experts say that is a potential violation of federal ethics rules barring officials from accepting gifts from their subordinates that have a market value of more than \$10.

Please provide on the record response to two questions:

- 1) If the administrator needed to fly in premium class seats due to security concerns, as both he and the agency have claimed, then why did he fly coach when the agency wasn't paying?
- 2) Did the administrator consult with EPA ethics counsel before accepting a companion pass from Wagner, a federal employee who is his subordinate? If so, did he receive a waiver allowing him to accept the airfare as a gift?

I'm writing on deadline, so a quick response would be appreciated.

Thanks,

Michael

<image001.jpg>

Michael Biesecker
Investigative Reporter
mbiesecker@ap.org
Twitter: @mbieseck
[Public Key](#)

<image002.jpg>

1100 13 St. NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-4076

T 202-641-9445

M **Ex. 6**

Have a tip for the Associated Press? We have a secure way to send it to us, anonymously. Follow this link for instructions: www.ap.org/tips

AP is the essential global news network, delivering fast, unbiased news from every corner of the world to all media platforms and formats. Founded in 1846, AP today is the largest and most trusted source of independent news and information. On any given day, two thirds of the world's population sees news from AP.

"There are only two forces that can carry light to all corners of the globe – the sun in the heavens and The Associated Press down here." – Mark Twain, 1906

"I go with Custer and will be at the death." – AP reporter Mark Kellogg's final dispatch from the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876

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Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 5/31/2018 12:16:01 PM
To: Leopold, Matt (OGC) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4e5cdf09a3924dada6d322c6794cc4fa-Leopold, Ma]
Subject: FW: Discussion Document - Audit of EPA's Adherence to Policies, Procedures and Oversight Controls Pertaining to the Administrator's Travel
Attachments: Finding Outline -Audit Objective 1.pdf; ATT00001.htm; Finding Outline -Audit Objectives 2-3.pdf; ATT00002.htm; OIG Draft Report_OA-FY16_0265_Administrator PSD.PDF

Two document we talked about last night.

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 7:53 PM
To: Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Discussion Document - Audit of EPA's Adherence to Policies, Procedures and Oversight Controls Pertaining to the Administrator's Travel

I wanted to ensure you are aware too.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA

Ex. 6

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wong, Lela" <Wong.Lela@epa.gov>
Date: May 29, 2018 at 7:29:23 PM EDT
To: "Conklin, Jeanne" <Conklin.Jeanne@epa.gov>
Cc: "Trent, Bobbie" <Trent.Bobbie@epa.gov>, "Jackson, Ryan" <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>, "Pruitt, Scott" <pruitt.scott@epa.gov>, "Christensen, Kevin" <Christensen.Kevin@epa.gov>, "Eyermann, Richard" <Eyermann.Richard@epa.gov>, "Trefry, John" <Trefry.John@epa.gov>, "Bennett, Angela" <Bennett.Angela@epa.gov>
Subject: Discussion Document - Audit of EPA's Adherence to Policies, Procedures and Oversight Controls Pertaining to the Administrator's Travel

Hi Jeanne,
Attached for your review are the OIG's Discussion Documents on the audit of the EPA's adherence to policies, procedures and oversight controls pertaining to the Administrator's travel. We have updated the finding outlines based on your comments from the field exit conference on April 30. Please review the documents for factual accuracy. I will send out a meeting invitation shortly to schedule a time to discuss the Agency's verbal comments in about 10 calendar

days. As previously discussed, we will be issuing a draft report for the agency's formal written comment.

Please note that the Discussion Documents are not to be distributed outside of EPA. You may distribute them to other EPA employees for purpose of providing comments only.

If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 947.4531, or my manager Angela Bennett at (404) 562.9844.

Thanks!
Lela

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 3/21/2018 9:51:37 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]
Subject: Fwd: EPA says Pruitt predecessors took expensive international trips too

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA

Ex. 6

Begin forwarded message:

From: "POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard" <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Date: March 21, 2018 at 2:29:01 PM EDT
To: <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA says Pruitt predecessors took expensive international trips too
Reply-To: "POLITICO subscriptions" <reply-fe921374756c047a76-1159543_HTML-786581600-1376319-0@politicoemail.com>

By Emily Holden

03/21/2018 02:27 PM EDT

EPA pushed back on criticism over Administrator Scott Pruitt's expensive travel today, highlighting data showing his predecessors in the Obama administration spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on international trips, too.

But while the calculations by EPA show former Administrator Gina McCarthy frequently visited other countries, she always flew coach, even on long flights where agency rules may have allowed her to upgrade. EPA says Pruitt traveled first class because of the high number of threats to his safety.

McCarthy made 14 trips to other countries in her three-and-a-half-year tenure, totaling \$731,000 for her, staff and security to fly and stay abroad, EPA said. Pruitt and his team spent at least \$120,000 on a single trip to a G-7 environment meeting in Italy in June, including \$36,000 on a military jet to New York to catch a flight to Rome. Pruitt also has spent at least \$105,000 on first class flights since May, according to agency records released yesterday to the House Oversight Committee.

Spokesman Jahan Wilcox called it a "double-standard" that the media did not report on EPA travel costs under President Barack Obama but "under the Trump Administration the costs to protect our government officials is somehow scandalous."

McCarthy's travel costs ranged from \$55,385 for a 2013 trip to China to \$90,368 for a visit to Dubai in 2015, according to calculations by EPA.

The first Obama administration EPA administrator, Lisa Jackson, spent \$155,764 on a 2011 trip to China, EPA said. Jackson flew business class on at least two international trips, to Kenya and China, according to agency notes.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2018/03/epa-says-pruitt-predecessors-took-expensive-international-trips-too-867130>

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Yes, very



Somewhat



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Not really



Not at all

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Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/17/2018 12:30:36 PM
To: Leopold, Matt [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4e5cdf09a3924dada6d322c6794cc4fa-Leopold, Ma]
Subject: RE: DRAFT--Murder Board Questions
Attachments: 4-11-2018 - FY19 Budget Hearing HOT TOPICS VRJ edits.docx

This is very draft. Can we meet to organize between us on this?

From: Leopold, Matt
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 8:24 AM
To: Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Baptist, Erik <Baptist.Erik@epa.gov>; Burke, Marcella <burke.marcella@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Frye, Tony (Robert) <frye.robert@epa.gov>; Rodrick, Christian <rodrick.christian@epa.gov>; Shimmin, Kaitlyn <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>; Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>; Hanson, Paige (Catherine) <hanson.catherine@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: DRAFT--Murder Board Questions

Thanks for this. OGC will take a look as well as provide any edits.

Matthew Z. Leopold
General Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-8040

From: Lyons, Troy
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 12:01 AM
To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Baptist, Erik <Baptist.Erik@epa.gov>; Burke, Marcella <burke.marcella@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Frye, Tony (Robert) <frye.robert@epa.gov>; Rodrick, Christian <rodrick.christian@epa.gov>; Shimmin, Kaitlyn <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>; Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>; Hanson, Paige (Catherine) <hanson.catherine@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: DRAFT--Murder Board Questions
Importance: High

Ryan, Matt

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Perhaps it would be beneficial to meet tomorrow to hammer out any changes to the briefing schedule.

Troy M. Lyons

Associate Administrator

Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6 (cell)

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 6/28/2018 12:23:33 AM
To: Wooden-Aguilar, Helena [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=991ab84f64be4b6b9dd10a68c81887b0-HAWodd]
Subject: FW: Edits to OIG response and supporting documents
Attachments: OMB reform plan protective service.pdf; Hodgkinson.pdf; Letter response to PSD OIG draft.docx; Jared_Loughner_Using_Systems.pdf; ecsp2.pdf; OIG Draft Report_OA-FY16_0265_Administrator PSD redline draft 6 26 18.docx

I wanted you to be aware for the purposes of the other report on Friday. However, I have this. Simply wanted you to be aware.

Thanks

Ryan.

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 8:22 PM
To: Bodine, Susan <bodine.susan@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt (OGC) <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Edits to OIG response and supporting documents

In the letter – **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

In the report – **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Would we want to meet further tomorrow?

From: Bodine, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 5:29 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt (OGC) <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>
Subject: Edits to OIG response and supporting documents

My staff has not yet reviewed my edits to their version so this is subject to change. However, I wanted in particular to share the draft letter response early.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Susan

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 7/2/2018 2:23:14 PM
To: Konkus, John [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=555471b2baa6419e8e141696f4577062-Konkus, Joh]
CC: Grantham, Nancy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=12a3c2ed7158417fb0bb1b1b72a8cfb0-Grantham, Nancy]; Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: RE: Story re: EPA aides testimony

Thank you.

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Monday, July 2, 2018 10:08 AM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Story re: EPA aides testimony

First inquiry on this topic...

From: Dennis, Brady [<mailto:Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 2, 2018 10:02 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Cc: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Subject: Story re: EPA aides testimony

Hi all,

Hope you're staying cool in the swelter. We wanted to touch base with you about a story that likely will post sometime later today, as far as we know, and run in print tomorrow. It primarily deals with some of the testimony that Samantha Dravis and Ryan Jackson gave to House Oversight staffers late last week.

Among the things we understand they told interviewers:

--They maintained that the administrator pressed to travel first-class or via private jet

--Dravis said that Mr. Pruitt asked his subordinates to do non-official work for him

--Dravis told investigators that the administrator wanted his spouse to find a post with an annual salary of more than \$200,000. (To be clear, we don't say this actually happened. And we also make clear that Cleta Mitchell has said she was the point person in helping with the job search).

-- Dravis described how Mr. Pruitt asked her and another former top aide, Sarah Greenwalt, to provide pro bono legal advice by reviewing a rental agreement he wanted out of early. The Pruitts lived briefly in Washington's U St. corridor before relocating, a move that forced them to pay a penalty.

--Jackson told interviewers that he had helped connect Pruitt with a fellow Oklahoman, lobbyist J. Steven Hart, to reach a housing deal in early 2017. The initial arrangement--under which Pruitt agreed to pay \$50 a night only on the days when he stayed in the condo owned by Hart's wife, Vicki--was supposed to last six weeks, Jackson told House staffers.

--In addition, Jackson said he and Dravis had raised concerns about the administrator's decision to begin routinely traveling first class.

(FYI, we got this email from Ryan: "Committee counsel explicitly asked me at the beginning of the morning not to reveal what the Committee asked me about. I don't know if there's an obligation to follow that, but I intend to follow that request.")

In addition, the story includes a mention of how Reginald Brown, who handled the administrator's financial disclosure documents in early 2017, took the unusual step of asking an EPA ethics official to help make sure that the incoming EPA administrator abided by federal rules around travel and political activity. Also, we understand that Oklahoma State Supreme Court Justice Patrick Wyrich, who worked as the state's solicitor general while Pruitt served as attorney general, cautioned Pruitt before and after he had taken over at EPA that excessive spending could lead to ethics problems.

As always, feel free to reach either of us by phone or email. I'm in transit at the moment but should be at the office soon. Juliet is on the road today and will be reachable on and off.

Many thanks,

Brady

Brady Dennis

Staff Writer

The Washington Post

202-334-7745

brady.dennis@washpost.com

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 7/3/2018 11:19:13 PM
To: Wooden-Aguilar, Helena [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=991ab84f64be4b6b9dd10a68c81887b0-HAWodd]
Subject: FW: Word Versions of Administrator's Travel Discussion Documents
Attachments: Audit Objective 1 V2 (003).docx; Audit Objectives 2 and 3 Version 3 (003).docx

Are these the correct ones?

From: Trent, Bobbie
Sent: Tuesday, July 3, 2018 8:49 AM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Conklin, Jeanne <Conklin.Jeanne@epa.gov>; Jones-Peeler, Meshell <Jones-Peeler.Meshell@epa.gov>; Brookshire, Malena <Brookshire.Malena@epa.gov>; Anthony, Sherri <Anthony.Sherri@epa.gov>
Subject: Word Versions of Administrator's Travel Discussion Documents

Good Morning Mr. Jackson:

Please find attached, the word versions of the Discussion Documents, please let me know if you need any further assistance, thank you.

Bob Trent
OCFO/OC/PTAD/MIAB
202-566-0983

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 12/13/2017 5:59:21 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]; Hupp, Millan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=92cac7b684b64f90953b753a01bee0d5-Hupp, Milla]
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 11:53 AM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>
Subject: APPROVAL: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 11:32 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Jahan,

I see you guys issued a press release about Pruitt's trip to Morocco, after refusing to comment about it to AP. We plan to write about the taxpayer-incurred costs of the trip.

They include Pruitt's airline ticket cost \$17,597.49 and a total cost of at least \$39,067 for five people (including Pruitt, Ryan Jackson, Samantha Dravis and security staff).

Please provide on the record comment on EPA's perspective on why these costs were justified. How did the purpose of the trip, which was to promote "the potential benefit of liquefied natural gas imports on Morocco's economy" fulfil EPA's mission to protect the environment and enforce U.S. environmental laws?

Also, please comment on why the cost of Pruitt's ticket was several times that of the others in the EPA contingent and would appear to indicate he flew First Class. Why was that level of luxury necessary for a public servant traveling at taxpayer expense?

I have a 1:30 deadline for this story, so your quick response is appreciated.

Thanks,

Michael

From: Biesecker, Michael

Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 1:30 PM

To: 'Wilcox, Jahan' <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Can you affirm on the record that all of Administrator Pruitt's meeting with Bob Murray are listed on his calendar?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 12:34 PM

To: Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>

Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

"Due to security concerns we do not comment on Administrator Pruitt's upcoming schedule, but every meeting that he attends is posted on www.epa.gov."

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]

Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 12:09 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Still hoping to get a response to this. Administrator Pruitt is a public official. His travel shouldn't be a secret.

Michael

From: Biesecker, Michael

Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 2:41 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Liz, Jahan,

Can you confirm whether Administrator Pruitt will be attending the climate summit in Paris this week. We also heard he's headed to Morocco. Could you provide any detail about what he'll be doing there?

Thanks,

Michael

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From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/11/2018 8:12:30 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Questions related to Scott Pruitt's security detail. Responses needed by end of the day, please

I agree with that.

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 4:06 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: APPROVAL: Questions related to Scott Pruitt's security detail. Responses needed by end of the day, please

I would just send these statements which have been approved and sent to other outlets.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

EPA STATEMENT REGARDING THREATS ...

"According to EPA's Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and security decisions are made by EPA's Protective Service Detail. Americans should all agree that members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

SECURITY DECISIONS ...

"Security decisions are made by EPA's Protective Service Detail and are similar to security protocol across the federal government." EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

FIRST-CLASS TRAVEL ...

Referring you to our statement made to CBS News - <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/scott-pruitt-my-very-next-flight-will-be-coach-epa-administrator-the-takeout-interview/>

SECURITY SWEEPS/LOCK ...

"Similar security sweeps were done for EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. We looked at a couple of different vendors and our career administrative officials approved locks that are used for the Inspector General and other offices within EPA." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

ITALY'S SECURITY ...

"Administrator Pruitt attended numerous G7 meetings with his bilateral counterparts and in terms of security, EPA's Protective Service Detail tried to replicate the same security measures taken when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy traveled to Italy in 2015." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 3:55 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Questions related to Scott Pruitt's security detail. Responses needed by end of the day, please

Jahan, can you send me the statements on Nino and the contract, Mario Caraballo and the general security one?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Lipton, Eric [mailto:lipton@nytimes.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 2:46 PM

To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: Questions related to Scott Pruitt's security detail. Responses needed by end of the day, please

Hello Liz

We intend to report the following things. Please let us know if you would like to comment or provide background context on any of them.

- Pasquale "Nino" Perrotta recommended the hiring of Edwin Steinmetz Associates LLC to sweep for covert/illegal surveillance devices at agency headquarters. Mr. Steinmetz is the Vice President of Technical Surveillance Countermeasures at Sequoia Security Group, a firm owned by Mr. Perrotta.
- The \$3,000 contract to Edwin Steinmetz Associates LLC for the sweep did not go through the EPA's Office of Homeland Security, which is the normal procedure for such contracts.
- Mr. Perrotta recommended building a \$43,000 sound-proof security booth in Administrator Pruitt's office, and for purchasing a bullet-proof desk for the security station outside Mr. Pruitt's office suite and purchasing a bullet-proof SUV for Mr. Pruitt.
- The EPA's Office of Inspector General is looking into the contract and the role of Mr. Perrotta in the selection of Edwin Steinmetz Associates LLC.
- Mr. Perrotta is personally friendly with the deputy inspector general conducting the investigation, Patrick Sullivan, with whom Mr. Perrotta worked at the United States Secret Service.
- Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Sullivan have spent time together socially since Mr. Sullivan's office initiated its investigation into the security sweep contract.
- EPA employees including John C. Martin, Steve Williams and Kevin Chmielewski raised concerns about the bug-sweeping contract and the security booth.
- Mr. Perrotta instructed Mr. Chmielewski to confiscate Mr. Martin's gun and badge.
- Mr. Perrotta instructed one of his agents to confiscate Mr. Chmielewski's credentials and electronic security card after Mr. Chmielewski returned from a trip abroad with Vice President Pence.
- When Mr. Chmielewski refused, Mr. Perrotta called Mr. Chmielewski and said that, if Mr. Chmielewski did not immediately return to the E.P.A. to surrender his credentials and security card, Mr. Perrotta would drive to Mr. Chmielewski's home that night and personally secure them.
- Mr. Chmielewski was subsequently placed on unpaid administrative leave and was recently terminated.
- Mr. Perrotta anonymously filed a complaint with the inspector general alleging that Mr. Chmielewski and Mr. Martin had run afoul of security rules.
- The EPA spent money hiring supplemental local security during Administrator Pruitt's trip to Italy.
- Mr. Perrotta was involved in selecting the supplemental local security personnel, which included several people with whom he had pre-existing relationships.
- Mr. Perrotta has dined with Mr. Pruitt on multiple occasions, including during a dinner towards the end of the Italy trip, at which the local supplemental security personnel also dined with a group that included Mr. Pruitt.
- Mr. Perrotta signed off on requests for first-class airfare for Mr. Pruitt and for Mr. Perrotta himself.
- Mr. Perrotta flew first class with Mr. Pruitt on several trips.
- Mr. Perrotta sometimes wears a cowboy hat while fulfilling his EPA duties.
- The Office of Homeland Security and the administrator's security detail have had disagreements over the significance of the threat that Mr. Pruitt faces, and the appropriate resources that should be used to provide security. Can you discuss this matter and address why it is that the Office of Homeland Security recommendations did not prevail, given that this is the division at EPA that historically has the authority and expertise to make such judgments.
- Did the EPA take action related to Mario Caraballo in anyway related to the Feb 2018 memo that the Homeland Security office produced questioning the security detail assessment of the threat?
- Officials from the EPA's Homeland Security office and Office of Inspector General met recently to discuss the sharing of intelligence related to threats against Mr. Pruitt. Was Mr. Pruitt's protective detail represented at this meeting?
- How is the EPA working to try to resolve conflict between homeland security division and the security detail?

If you disagree with any of these characterizations, please let us know.
We need a response by close of business today.

Happy to clarify anything here

Eric

Eric Lipton

~~The New York Times~~

Washington Bureau

202 862 0448 office

Ex. 6 mobile

lipton@nytimes.com

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/23/2018 8:23:06 PM
To: Tomassi, Chris (Appropriations) [Chris_Tomassi@appro.senate.gov]
Attachments: April 27, 2018.docx

Chris, I wanted to provide you with information which the R members of your subcommittee may find useful.

Thanks.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6

For April 26, 2018 Hearing

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INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

FALSE CLAIM ...

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt wasted taxpayer money on three international travel trips. What's not told is that the trip to Italy was for the G-7 environmental summit and the Morocco trip was to meet with government leaders about environmental issues. Finally, a planned trip to Australia was cancelled so Administrator Pruitt could stay in the U.S. and monitor relief efforts related to Hurricane Harvey.

Additionally, Pruitt's international travel has been criticized despite the fact he has taken fewer international trips and spent less money than his two predecessors: Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson.

PRECEDENT FOR EPA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ...

- Administrator Pruitt has taken 2 international trips: total cost \$160,000.
- Administrator McCarthy took 10 international trips: total cost \$630,000.
- Administrator Jackson took 4 international trips: total cost \$332,000 (including \$155,000 on one trip to China.)

Former EPA Administrators Gina McCarthy And Lisa Jackson Spent More On International Travel Than Pruitt. "Internal EPA documents provided to the Washington Free Beacon reveal Obama administration EPA administrators jet setting cost taxpayers roughly \$1 million. The EPA has spent \$124,000 for Pruitt and his security detail to travel to the G-7 summit in Italy and a trip to Morocco. McCarthy took 10 international trips in three years, including trips to Paris, Florence, Dubai, and Tokyo. Pruitt has come under scrutiny from the media for the travel costs, which include \$84,000 for the G-7 summit in Italy last summer in airfare for Pruitt and security... McCarthy spent \$629,743 on airfare and security for international trips between 2013 and 2016...Internal EPA documents show costs for trips to Ghana (\$68,382), Peru (\$45,140), Tokyo (\$74,738), Paris (\$41,321), Dubai (\$90,368), Tokyo (\$67,703), Florence (\$56,193), Vancouver (\$62,247), Vietnam (\$68,268), and Beijing (\$55,385)." ([The Washington Free Beacon](#), 03/21/2018)

Lisa Jackson's China Trip Exceeded \$155,000. "Between 2009 and 2012, Jackson spent \$64,963 for trips to Tel Aviv; \$59,950 to Rio de Janeiro; \$51,436 to Montreal; and \$155,764 to Beijing, Guangzhou, and Shanghai." ([The Washington Free Beacon](#), 03/21/2018)

ITALY ...

Administrator Pruitt Promoted The Importance Of International Engagement At His First G7 Meeting. "U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt attended his first G7 Environmental Ministerial Meeting, taking part in thoughtful bilateral discussions with his G7 counterparts. Less than two weeks after President Trump announced the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Accord, Administrator Pruitt emphasized now is the time to move forward with a discussion to find ways to positively engage with other countries in order to protect and use our natural resources. 'The United States has always been a world leader when it comes to environmental stewardship, and that was demonstrated on a global stage today,' Administrator Pruitt said. 'I

believe engaging in international discussion is of the utmost importance to the United States when it comes to environmental issues. I want to thank the government of Italy and Minister Galletti for the tremendous hospitality and leadership over this meeting.’ ‘The protection of the environment and public health,’ said Italian Minister of the Environment Gian Luca Galletti, ‘is a common goal for Italy and the United States. There are many themes that see our common commitment. The presence of Administrator Pruitt at the G7 Environment in Bologna has been a very important element that allowed us to start constructive dialogue on all environmental issues as well as to open new channels of business cooperation between our two countries.’ Administrator Pruitt returned to the United States Sunday evening in order to attend the President’s first full cabinet meeting scheduled for Monday. ([Press Release](#), 06/11/17)

Both Lisa Jackson And Gina McCarthy Attended The Same G-7 Meeting As Pruitt And EPA Security Details Followed The Same Protocol As Past Trips. “Administrator Pruitt’s security detail followed the same procedures for the G-7 environmental meeting in Italy that were used during EPA Administrators Stephen Johnson, Lisa Jackson and Gina McCarthy’s trips to Italy,’ agency spokesman Jahan Wilcox said in an email. ‘EPA’s security procedures have not deviated over the past 14 years.’” ([The Washington Post](#), 03/20/2018)

- **Gina McCarthy Also Visited The Vatican While In Rome.** “Explaining her visit Friday to the Vatican, the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said she wanted to let Pope Francis know that President Barack Obama is ‘aligned with him’ on the issue of climate change and is taking action.” ([The Forum on Religion and Ecology](#), 01/30/2015)

Media Reports Suggest Pruitt’s Trip To Italy Cost Too Much On Travel And Security. “Pruitt said he took official meetings during the entire four-day trip to Italy for the G-7 environmental summit in June of last year... Documents released earlier this week show that the cost of the trip was \$30,000 more than previously reported, bringing the total to around \$120,000. An EPA document showed that the cost of travel for Pruitt’s security detail was \$30,559 the week of the trip. ([ABC News](#), 03/22/2018)

Pruitt Critics Purposefully Ignore The Significance Of The G7 Italy Trip. “That’s a lot of money for Mr. Pruitt to tour the Vatican, pose for photos and tell his European counterparts that global warming doesn’t matter,’ Eric Schaeffer, executive director of the Environmental Integrity Project, said in a statement Tuesday. ‘And it doesn’t even include salary costs for everyone who signed up for this tour. Maybe next time he should just send his regrets.’” ([The Washington Post](#), 03/20/2018)

EPA STATEMENT: “Administrator Pruitt attended numerous G7 meetings with his bilateral counterparts and in terms of security, EPA’s Protective Service Detail tried to replicate the same security measures taken when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy traveled to Italy in 2015.” — EPA spokesman

On February 13, 2018 CBS News Reported That EPA Had “A Certificate Justifying The Return Flight From Milan,” Allowing Administrator Pruitt To Fly On A Foreign Carrier Due To Lack Of

Options Available From American Carriers. “A certificate justifying the return flight from Milan that the EPA provided to CBS News said Pruitt flew on a foreign carrier because it was the only available flight ‘that would get the administrator back in time’ to attend a Cabinet meeting with President Trump the next day.” ([CBS News](#), 2/13/18)

MOROCCO ...

Administrator Pruitt Promotes Environmental Cooperation With Moroccan Government Officials. “U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt attended bilateral meetings in Morocco this week where he outlined U.S. environmental priorities for updating the Environmental Work Plan under the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement and the potential benefit of liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports on Morocco’s economy. This visit comes on the heels of an EPA-led workshop in Rabat that shared U.S. best practices for solid waste management, public participation and crisis communication pursuant to the former Environmental Work Plan. ‘These meetings allowed us to directly convey our priorities and best practices with Moroccan leaders, as well as identify opportunities for continued cooperation, as our two countries further talks around the Environmental Work Plan,’ said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. ‘We are committed to working closely with countries like Morocco to enhance environmental stewardship around the world.’ Administrator Pruitt met with Moroccan Secretary of State of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mounia Boucetta, where the two discussed the importance of continued collaboration between the two countries. Following the meeting with Secretary Boucetta, he met with the Moroccan Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, Aziz Rabbah, to discuss new and ongoing areas of collaboration under the Free Trade Agreement and the country’s interest in importing LNG. Also during the visit to Morocco, Administrator Pruitt met with Moroccan Minister of Justice and Liberties, Mohamed Aujjar. The two focused on the importance of adhering to rule of law and the ongoing strategic cooperation between the two countries. Administrator Pruitt also toured the IRESEN Green Energy Park, where he saw firsthand the work being done to promote environmental innovation including solar energy across Morocco. ([Press Release](#), 12/12/17)

The Washington Post Criticized Pruitt For Spending A Night In Paris, When In Reality His Outbound Flight Was Cancelled And He Was Forced To Spend A Night Near Charles De Gaulle Airport In France. “An EPA official said the trip was affected by weather delays, which prompted the group to stay in Paris on Dec. 10 before arriving in Rabat the next day.” ([The Washington Post](#), 03/20/18)

ABC News Falsely Reported That Pruitt Had One Scheduled Meeting For The First Day, When In Fact His Flight Was Cancelled Due To Snow At Dulles And His Schedule Had To Be Adjusted. “Wilcox said Saturday that Pruitt originally had more meetings scheduled that first day in Morocco but his plans changed after weather delayed his flight out of Dulles International Airport on Dec. 9” ([ABC News](#), 04/21/18)

ABC News Criticized EPA Over A Portion Of Pruitt’s Calendar Which Was Redacted, When The Redaction Was For A Senior Staff Meeting, It Listed Of All 98 Attendees For A Meeting In Washington That He Never Attended. “The four-page redaction to the Morocco schedule is

simply a calendar entry for a Senior Staff Meeting at EPA Headquarters in DC, which the Administrator did not attend because he was in Morocco. The entry includes all attendees invited to the meeting, which is the reason for the extensive redaction. Every meeting that took place in Morocco has been publicized and included on the Administrator's schedule."

Despite The False Narrative From The Media That Pruitt Went To Morocco To Solely Promote Natural Gas, He Attended Numerous Meetings On A Wide Range Of Topics. "Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt returned Wednesday from a trip to Morocco, where he talked with officials about their interest in importing natural gas as well as other areas of 'continued cooperation' between the two countries... The purpose of the trip sparked questions from environmental groups, Democratic lawmakers and some industry experts, who noted that EPA plays no formal role in overseeing natural gas exports. Such activities are overseen primarily by the Energy Department and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission." ([The Washington Post](#), 12/13/2017)

Pruitt Had Numerous Meetings Pertaining To Agency Priorities, Including Disaster Relief, Solid Waste Response, And The Bilateral Free Trade Agreement Between The U.S. And Morocco. "Pruitt met with three top Moroccan officials, according to the agency statement, including the minister of energy, mines and sustainable development; the minister of justice and liberties; and the secretary of state to the minister of foreign affairs. Wilcox said Pruitt 'discussed our bilateral free trade agreement, solid waste response, disaster relief and communications with top Moroccan officials...' His visit came shortly after the EPA held a workshop in Rabat about solid waste management, public participation and crisis communication. Morocco, the only African country with which the United States has a free-trade agreement, is a signatory to the 2015 Paris climate agreement and has collaborated in the past with U.S. officials on its push to expand domestic solar energy production. During the trip, Moroccan officials took Pruitt on a tour of the IRESEN Green Energy Park, which the EPA said showed the administrator 'firsthand the work being done to promote environmental innovation, including solar energy across Morocco.' ([The Washington Post](#), 12/13/2017)

AUSTRALIA ...

Members Of Administrator Pruitt's Advance Team And Security Detail Traveled To Australia Prior To Administrator Pruitt's Scheduled Trip To Meet With Australian Officials. "Pruitt was scheduled to participate in environment-related meetings with Australian officials on a visit to Sydney and Canberra... Wilcox said the original itinerary included a meeting with Australia's parliament." ([Reuters](#), 04/19/2018)

EPA STATEMENT: "Government employees who travel for longer than 14 hours are able to fly in business class and our advance team, which included Millan Hupp and Kevin Chmielewski, was adhering to the federal government's travel policy. Their job was to arrive before Administrator Pruitt, who had meetings planned with the Australian government, but his trip was cancelled due to Hurricane Harvey." – EPA spokesman

Government Officials Are Authorized To Travel In Business Class If Flights Exceed 14 hours.

“The purchase of business-class tickets was not a violation of U.S. government policy, which allows federal employees to travel business class on trips lasting 14 hours or more.” ([Reuters](#), 04/19/2018)

The Trip Was Ultimately Cancelled Due To Emergency Agency Needs Surrounding Hurricane Harvey. “EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said Pruitt’s trip was canceled because of Hurricane Harvey, which caused major flooding and damage in Texas. Pruitt ended up going to Corpus Christi, Texas to assess the agency’s relief efforts instead.” ([Reuters](#), 04/19/2018)

On August 30, 2017, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Visited Corpus Christi “To Assess EPA Relief Efforts And Thank Responders.” “U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt traveled to Corpus Christi today to assess EPA relief efforts and thank responders. Administrator Pruitt also met with local and state leaders to discuss continued relief measures in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.” ([EPA Press Office](#), 8/30/17)

Pruitt Stated That He Saw The “Devastation Endured By Texas” Firsthand While Visiting Corpus Christi. ““The devastation endured by Texas this week is unfathomable. As I saw firsthand today, the Lone Star State has shown commendable perseverance in helping their fellow neighbors through this crisis,’ said Administrator Pruitt. ‘EPA is committed to working with our federal, state, and local partners to provide relief to the affected regions.’” ([EPA Press Office](#), 8/30/17)

Pruitt Had Been Scheduled To Participate In Environment-Related Meetings In Sydney And Canberra, Australia, But Cancelled The Trips Due To Hurricane Harvey. “Pruitt was scheduled to participate in environment-related meetings with Australian officials on a visit to Sydney and Canberra. EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said Pruitt’s trip was canceled because of Hurricane Harvey, which caused major flooding and damage in Texas. Pruitt ended up going to Corpus Christi, Texas to assess the agency’s relief efforts instead.” ([Reuters](#), 4/19/18)

PRUITT'S ONE-BEDROOM LEASE ON CAPITOL HILL

VICKI AND STEVE HART ...

EPA STATEMENT: "When Administrator Pruitt arrived in Washington, he stayed at a condo owned by a friend and paid her for it. Vicki Hart is the sole owner of this complex and is a healthcare lobbyist." - EPA spokesman.

Steven Hart Is A Friend Of The Administrator's From Oklahoma And The Living Situation Was Temporary Until A Permanent Washington, DC Residence Could Be Arranged. "'My wife wasn't here yet. My children were back in Oklahoma,' Pruitt said. 'The needs were different. As soon as my wife came up, we moved to a different location where I couldn't just be living out of a suitcase...' Speaking of Hart, Pruitt said: 'He's the chairman of a law firm. I've know this gentleman for years. He's an Oklahoman, and his firm represents these [energy industry] clients, not him. There has been no connection whatsoever in that regard.'" ([The Daily Signal](#), 04/03/2018)

Steven Hart Did Meet With Administrator Pruitt in 2017 But Claims It Was Done For A Friend And Not In An Official Capacity. "Mr. Hart disputed on Saturday that his story had changed, saying in a written statement that his work with Mr. Treacy was not compensated and not on behalf of Smithfield. 'I assisted a friend who serves on the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and this is inaccurately being tied to Smithfield Foods,' Mr. Hart said. 'I was not paid for this assistance and any suggestion that I lobbied for Smithfield Foods is inaccurate...' a spokesman for Mr. Hart, Ryan Williams, told The New York Times that Mr. Hart had met with Mr. Pruitt in 2017, along with Dennis Treacy, a former Smithfield executive vice president. Mr. Treacy now serves on the board of directors of the Smithfield Foundation, which the food company describes as its philanthropic arm with a focus of combating hunger." ([The New York Times](#), 04/21/2018)

Steven Hart Attended A Meeting With Dennis Treacy, Former Executive Vice President Of Smithfield Foods, And Administrator Pruitt Met To Discuss Restoring The Chesapeake Bay And Was Not Conducted At The Request Of Smithfield Foods. "'Smithfield Foods, Inc. has learned Williams & Jensen has advocated in support of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs to help the Chesapeake Bay,' the company said in a statement Saturday. 'The objective, while laudable, was not undertaken at the direction of or on behalf of Smithfield Foods. These activities were conducted at the request of a then former executive and current Smithfield Foundation board member, Dennis Treacy, in his personal capacity.'" ([The New York Times](#), 04/21/2018)

EPA ETHICS OFFICIALS CLEARED PRUITT'S LEASE ...

On March 29, 2018, ABC News Reported EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Lived In A Condo Owned By The Wife Of A Lobbyist Steven Hart. "Hart confirmed to ABC News in a brief interview that Pruitt had lived in the flat, which is owned by a limited liability company that

links to an address listed to Hart and his wife Vicki Hart, a lobbyist with expertise in the healthcare arena. Steven Hart said Vicki Hart co-owns the condo. He said his wife was not the majority owner, but would not identify her partners.” ([ABC News](#), 03/29/2018)

EPA Ethics Counsel Concludes Arrangement Wasn’t Ethics Issue Because Pruitt Paid Rent.

“Bloomberg reviewed six canceled checks paid by Pruitt totaling \$6,100 from March 18 through Sept 1, 2017. He paid \$450 on March 18, \$900 on April 26, \$850 on May 15, \$700 on June 4, \$1,500 on July 22 and \$1,700 on Sept 1... Justina Fugh, who has been ethics counsel at the EPA for a dozen years, said the arrangement wasn’t an ethics issue because Pruitt paid rent... Fugh, the EPA’s ethics counsel, said no gift was involved. It was a routine business arrangement between Pruitt and an individual, not a lobbying firm, she added.” ([Bloomberg](#), 03/29/18)

EPA Ethics Official Concluded That Pruitt’s \$50 A Night / \$1,500 A Month Was Market Rate For One Bedroom On Capitol Hill. “In a memo obtained by CBS News, the Environmental Protection Agency’s Ethics Official and Deputy Counsel concluded that EPA Administrator’s Scott Pruitt’s housing arrangement did not breach any ethical violations or constitute a gift. The memo, signed by EPA Deputy Counsel Kevin Minoli, says that the EPA’s investigation determined that ‘when checked against the price of traditional month-to-month rentals that would most likely offer increased privacy and exclusivity of use, a converted amount of \$1,500 for Tenant’s portion of the rent under the lease is within the range of amounts charged for locations no further than three blocks away.’” ([CBS News](#), 4/4/18)

OBAMA’S TREASURY SECRETARY TIMOTHY GEITNER LIVED RENT-FREE IN A BANKING EXECUTIVE’S HOME ...

During The Previous Administration, Then-Treasury Secretary Timothy Geitner Lived Rent-Free In A \$3.5 Million Townhouse Owned By A Bank Executive While Geitner Was Overseeing The Bailout Crisis For Wall Street Banks “Geithner lived with Zelikow’s family in the six-bedroom house, which is next door to the residence of the ambassador of Monaco and not far from the home of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, during most of his first eight months running the Treasury Department. At that time, Geithner was overseeing the bailout of several huge Wall Street banks, including JPMorgan, which received \$25 billion in federal rescue funds from the TARP program... The bank, JPMorgan Chase, has just rehired one of Geithner’s oldest and dearest friends, Daniel Zelikow, as a top executive, only a year after the Treasury secretary moved out of his rent-free accommodations in Zelikow’s \$3.5 million Washington townhouse.” ([The Daily Beast](#), 08/15/10)

THREATS AGAINST PRUITT

ON APRIL 6, 2018 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FALSELY CLAIMED THERE WERE NO THREATS AGAINST ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT ...

On April 6, 2018, The Associated Press Falsely Reported That There Are No Threats Against Administrator Pruitt Because No Arrests Or Charges Have Been Filed. “A nationwide search of state and federal court records by AP found no case where anyone has been arrested or charged with threatening Pruitt. EPA’s press office did not respond Friday to provide details of any specific threats or arrests.” (The Associated Press, 4/6/18)

PREVIOUS MEDIA REPORTS DISPUTE THIS CLAIM ...

On April 11, 2018, CBS News Reported That Administrator Pruitt Received Numerous Threats Including One “Deemed Serious Enough To Prosecute” By The Department Of Justice. “CBS News has obtained an August 2017 report prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency’s office of inspector general that contains a list of 13 threats made against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and his family. The threats range in severity, credibility and specificity. One tweet flagged by investigators said, ‘Pruitt, I’m gonna find you and put a bullet between your eyes. Don’t think I’m joking. I’m planning this.’ Investigators believe the threat was made by someone living in India... In certain cases, cases were referred to the Justice Department, but just one was deemed serious enough to prosecute. The report covers the period from Oct. 2016 to Aug. 2017.” (CBS News, 4/11/18)

On January 11, 2018 E&E News Reported That “Pruitt Has Faced More Threats Than His Immediate Predecessors, Former Administrators Gina McCarthy And Lisa Jackson.” “In an interview with E&E News, Patrick Sullivan, EPA’s assistant IG for investigations, said the watchdog opened roughly 70 threat probes in fiscal 2017, including cases and complaints related to EPA facilities and personnel. That surpassed the total of about 45 such probes into threats against EPA from fiscal 2016. Sullivan also said Pruitt has faced more threats than his immediate predecessors, former administrators Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson. ‘He has had significantly more threats directed against him. There’s absolutely no question about it,’ Sullivan said.” (E&E News, 1/11/18)

On November 1, 2017 The Wall Street Journal Reported On “More Than 70 Credible Threats Against EPA Staffers, With A Disproportionate Number Menacing Administrator Scott Pruitt And His Family.” “Since the Trump Administration took office, the agency has investigated more than 70 credible threats against EPA staffers, with a disproportionate number menacing Administrator Scott Pruitt and his family... Mr. Pruitt has received more than five times as many threats as his predecessor, Gina McCarthy. These include explicit death threats. Some have referenced Mr. Pruitt’s home address. Federal law enforcement has determined that some of those threatening Mr. Pruitt are likely capable of carrying out acts of violence. EPA security has

already caught suspects prowling around the administrator's neighborhood." (The Wall Street Journal, 11/1/17)

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EPA'S PROTECTIVE SERVICE DETAIL & SPENDING

EPA STATEMENTS ...

Spending Decisions Are Made By EPA'S Protective Service Detail. "Security decisions are made by EPA's Protective Service Detail and are similar to security protocol across the federal government." – EPA spokesman

Pruitt Has Faced An Unprecedented Amount Of Threats Against Him. "According to EPA's Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and security decisions are made by EPA's Protective Service Detail. Americans should all agree that members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats." – EPA spokesman

SECURE PHONE LINE ...

Pruitt's \$43,000 Soundproof Phone Booth Started More Modestly. "In the beginning, it was supposed to be just a secure telephone line. But over the course of four months last year, that phone line destined for the office of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt morphed from a no-more-than \$13,500 project into a \$43,000 privacy booth, complete with silenced ventilation and "noise-lock" paneling to keep conversations from being overheard, according to documents obtained by Bloomberg News." ([Bloomberg](#), 4/20/18)

Costs Ballooned After Initial Cost Estimate Was Created. "EPA officials seeking bids for the project initially estimated a privacy booth would cost \$13,500 on a July 24, 2017 requisition form. Another \$11,500 was added on Aug. 17, and an additional \$570 was included on Aug. 23 as the staff closed in on a final vendor. That \$25,570, including a \$1,000 after-hours delivery charge, was just for the booth itself; total costs ballooned to \$43,000 after prep work and installation, including leveling a concrete floor to insert the pre-fabricated steel box. Former Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff Reginald Allen – who had the top career post in the EPA – sent booth costs of \$24,570 to Chmielewski on Aug. 23, adding that he was waiting for an estimate for the floor from Jefferson's team. Another email says funding was being handled by Allen's office." ([Bloomberg](#), 4/20/18)

Career Staff, Not Pruitt, Were Behind EPA's \$43K Phone Booth. "However, the documents 'show the heavy role played by career officials who have purchasing power — and suggest political appointees without the authority to approve acquisitions were less involved,' Dlouhy reported. 'Administrator Pruitt simply requested a secure phone line but never asked for a soundproof booth, nor did he have knowledge of its purchase,' EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox told Bloomberg. The secure phone booth was initially estimated to cost \$13,500, but soon morphed into \$43,000 project, 'complete with silenced ventilation and 'noise-lock' paneling to keep conversations from being overheard,' according to Bloomberg." ([The Daily Caller](#), 4/20/18)

EPA Career Officials Oversaw The Contract For The Phone Line. "Career officials at the Environmental Protection Agency who oversaw the funding and construction of a controversial secure phone booth for Administrator Scott Pruitt's office were acting at the behest of political

appointees and security staff, documents obtained by CBS News show. The documents show that the project started soliciting bids at an estimated \$13,500 last summer. It eventually cost \$43,000, which included painting, floor and ceiling work and prepping the room. Presented with four pricing options ranging between \$20,560 and \$24,570, career officials chose the most expensively priced because it included 'expedited materials and working outside regular business hours.'" ([CBS News](#), 04/20/18)

The Daily Caller: Career Staff, Not Pruitt, Were Behind EPA's \$43K Phone Booth [trib.al/OxEFT64](#) ([twitter](#), 04/22/2018)

Jennifer Dlouhy, Bloomberg Reporter: New documents show how a possibly modest request for a secure phone line in EPA Chief Pruitt's office morphed into a \$43,000 soundproof booth w/ noise-lock paneling & silenced ventilation. ([twitter](#), 04/20/18)

Steve Milloy, JunkScience: JunkScience: Pfft... another line of attack on @EPAScottPruitt fizzles. Pruitt only asked for a secure phone line for \$13,500. But the bureaucracy tripled the cost. ([twitter](#), 04/20/18)

Chris Mooney, Washington Post Reporter: Pruitt's \$43,000 phone booth started more modestly [bloomberg.com/news/articles/...](#) via @bpolitics ([twitter](#), 04/20/18)

Major Garrett, CBS Chief White House Correspondent: Documents provide window into Scott Pruitt's controversial \$43,000 phone booth [cbsnews.com/news/documents...](#) via @CBSPolitics ([twitter](#), 04/20/2018)

CBS News: Documents provide window into Scott Pruitt's controversial \$43,000 phone booth [cbsnews.com/news/documents...](#) via @CBSPolitics ([twitter](#), 04/20/2018)

BULLET-PROOF VEHICLES MYTH ...

EPA Corrects Media Reports About Bulletproof Tires And Bullet-Resistant Seat Covers For Pruitt. "The Environmental Protection Agency is correcting the record, claiming news reports about bulletproof tires and bullet-resistant seat covers to protect its embattled chief Scott Pruitt at government expense were inaccurate. EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox told Fox News: 'We would like to put this rumor to rest. EPA has no bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers, the agency has no contracts for any bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers, and the agency never sought any contracts for bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers.' Wilcox also sent to Fox News 'the federal purchase order, which reveals there was no purchase of bulletproof tires or bullet-resistant covers.' Wilcox added, 'In response to an individual attempting to assassinate numerous Congressional Republicans while they practiced for a charity baseball game, EPA's Protective Service Detail placed bullet-proof vests over each seat.'" ([Fox News](#), 4/18/18)

SECURITY SWEEPS ...

Former EPA Administrators Lisa Jackson And Gina McCarthy Also Had Their Office Swept. "He

added, 'According to EPA's Protective Service, security sweeps are common practice in government, as former EPA Administrators Lisa Jackson and Gina McCarthy also had their office swept.' While there was no competitive bidding for Steinmetz's [\$3,000] contract, Wilcox said the agency considered multiple vendors for the biometric locks used in Pruitt's office and for the EPA inspector general." (The Washington Post, 3/6/18)

FIRST CLASS TRAVEL

Security Incidents Prompted EPA Officials To Move Administrator Pruitt To First Or Business Class. “The shift to first-class travel began after May 2017, when EPA officials saw how recognizable Pruitt was to the general public, Barnett said. There were ‘incidents where he was being approached – vulgar language, people were being somewhat aggressive towards him – and so the special agent in charge provided documentation – a memo – to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator.’” ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/2018)

Prior To Every Flight, EPA Submitted A Security-Related Waiver To Approve Administrator Pruitt’s Travel Arrangements. “EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said the agency submits a security-related waiver for each trip Pruitt takes.” ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/2018)

EPA Submitted Letter To House Oversight Committee Chairman Explaining Waiver. “In a letter to Gowdy, EPA said that Pruitt’s first class travel was approved ‘on an individualized basis,’ and was necessary due to security concerns. His security detail, the letter said, ‘identified specific, ongoing threats associated with the administration administrator’s air travel and, therefore, shifted his class based on security protocols that require him to be near the front of the plane.’” ([The Daily Beast](#), 3/20/18)

EPA Spent \$105,000 On First Class Travel For Administrator Pruitt For Travel. “Environmental Protection Agency administration Scott Pruitt spent about \$105,000 on first class airfare since assuming the post, records obtained by The Daily Beast show. The details of Pruitt’s travel are spelled out in documents sent to congressional investigators on Tuesday as part of the House Oversight Committee’s probe into the use of taxpayer resources for official government travel.” ([The Daily Beast](#), 3/20/18)

In February 2018, Administrator Pruitt Announced He Directed Security Team To Accommodate Threats To Allow Him To Fly Coach. “There’s a change coming, because look the security threat matters,’ Pruitt said. ‘What I’ve told them going forward is this: There is a change occurring, you’re going to accommodate the security threats as they exist, you’re going to accommodate those in all ways, alternate ways, up to and including flying coach, and that is what’s going to happen on my very next flight. So those things are happening right away.’” ([CBS News](#), 02/28/2018)

The Associated Press Used Flights On Southwest Airlines – Which Does Not Have First Class – To Push Their False Narrative That Pruitt Flies Coach When He Is Paying For Person Travel. “The AP released a report on Wednesday titled: ‘EPA chief sat in coach when not flying on taxpayer’s dime.’ The headline — and the opening lede — suggested that the leader of the EPA makes more economical decisions when taking personal flights, as opposed to his travel when conducting official business. However, there is one major detail included about Southwest Airlines: They do not offer first-class travel. This detail was included in the body of the AP article, but the headline and angle of the report framed Pruitt as a hypocrite when it comes to

personal travel.” ([The Daily Caller](#), 4/19/18)

The Associated Press Falsely Reported That EPA Confirmed Their Claim. “This was not the only detail the EPA took issue with. The AP claimed on Twitter that it confirmed their story with the agency. However, EPA spokesperson Jahan Wilcox said this tweet is false and that the agency never confirmed their report. ‘The same security procedures are followed whether Administrator Pruitt is on official or personal travel,’ the official statement provided to the AP read. The statement neither confirmed nor denied the story.” ([The Daily Caller](#), 4/19/18)

PRUITT'S EPA EMAIL ACCOUNTS

EPA STATEMENT: “When EPA receives a FOIA request concerning the Administrator’s emails, all accounts associated are searched before we respond to that request.” – Steve Fine, Acting Chief Information Officer

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy had 4 email accounts: 5178RAMcCarthy@epa.gov, Adm13McCarthy@epa.gov, GinaMcCarthy.epaadministrator@epa.gov, and McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov.

Obama EPA officials said multiple email addresses for the Administrator “have been standard practice since the Clinton Administration.” “The internal account exists so that Jackson’s communications with other government officials aren’t buried under the crush of emails flooding into her public account, jackson.lisap@epa.gov, which got 1.5 million emails in fiscal year 2012, EPA says. The agency says such dual- account arrangements have been standard practice since the Clinton administration, when EPA Administrator Carol Browner was first assigned two @epa.gov email addresses. ‘For more than a decade, EPA administrators have been assigned two official, government-issued email accounts: a public account and an internal account,’ EPA said in a statement to POLITICO.” ([Lisa Jackson's 'Windsor' knot](#), Politico, 11/20/12)

Lisa Jackson had one email for the public and one internal account to communicate with staff and other government officials. “The email address for the public account is posted on EPA’s website and is used by hundreds of thousands of Americans to send messages to the administrator. The internal account is an everyday, working email account of the administrator to communicate with staff and other government officials.” ([Lisa Jackson's 'Windsor' knot](#), Politico, 11/20/12)

George W. Bush’s Administration said there was nothing usual about Lisa Jackson’s multiple email accounts. “High-ranking officials from George W. Bush’s EPA agree that the arrangement is nothing new, and say they were never under the impression that the internal account was a secret. Senior EPA leadership and EPA regional administrators had the email address, as did anyone to whom the administrator provided it, and the messages were all considered part of the public record. When it comes to public records and FOIA requests, ‘both the public and internal accounts are reviewed for responsive records, and responsive records from both accounts are provided to FOIA requesters,’ EPA said.” ([Lisa Jackson's 'Windsor' knot](#), Politico, 11/20/12)

RAISES TO STAFF & AD HIRING AUTHORITY

The Atlantic falsely claimed that Administrator Scott Pruitt was responsible for substantial pay raises to two staff. “In early March, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt approached the White House with a request: He wanted substantial pay raises for two of his closest aides.” ([The Atlantic](#), 4/3/18)

Administrator Pruitt swiftly denied his involvement in the raises. “I found out this yesterday and I corrected the action and we are in the process of finding out how it took place and correcting it,” – EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt ([Fox News](#), 4/4/18)

Ryan Jackson, EPA Chief of Staff, went on the record stating that Administrator Pruitt had zero knowledge of the raises. “Administrator Pruitt had zero knowledge of the amount of the raises, nor the process by which they transpired. These kind of personnel actions are handled by EPA's HR officials, Presidential Personnel Office and me,” Jackson said in a prepared statement Monday. – Ryan Jackson, EPA Chief of Staff ([Politico](#), 4/9/18)

Jackson provided Politico with reasoning for the substantial raises but confirmed that they had been reversed per Pruitt's direction. “He [Ryan Jackson] said the staffers were to be paid “similar to their peers given their responsibilities over the past year,” and that their original salaries started lower than their colleagues’ because they had moved to Washington, D.C., from Oklahoma, where salaries are lower. He added that the raises had been reversed, as Pruitt instructed, and any future changes would go through the White House for evaluation.” ([Politico](#), 4/9/18)

EPA's Office of Inspector General issued a Management Alert on Salary Increases for Certain Administratively Determined Positions on 4/16/18, which referenced EPA's further reasoning for the raises. “These salary determinations for appointees were made by the Agency chief of staff, White House liaison, and Agency human resources staff based on previous salary history and increases in salary were made due to either new and additional responsibilities or promotions. The salaries involved were meant to correspond directly with the responsibilities the individual held and to attempt to ensure no salary disparities among positions of equivalent or similar responsibilities with other political appointees as much as possible. As employees continue to work in the agency reaching milestones like one year of employment and/or continue to take on new responsibilities, we will further evaluate their salaries to ensure the employees compensation is commensurate with their seniority and work.” (EPA's 4/15/18 response to OIG's 4/11/18 draft report, [EPA Office of Inspector General](#), 4/16/18) [See attached for OIG management alert]

EPA's Office of Inspector General further provides the HR documentation supporting the raises in this Management Alert, which show Ryan Jackson approved the raises. Documents show that authorizations for these raises (Employee A and Employee B), were signed “Ryan Jackson for Scott Pruitt.” ([EPA Office of Inspector General](#), 4/16/18) [See attached for OIG management alert]

EPA STATEMENT: “The Safe Drinking Water Act provides the EPA with broad authority to appoint scientific, engineering, professional, legal, and administrative positions within EPA without regard to the civil service laws. This is clear authority that has been relied on by previous administrations,” EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said in a statement. ([The Atlantic](#), 4/3/18)

- **Direct Text of Statute:** “§ 300j–10. *Appointment of scientific, etc., personnel by Administrator of Environmental Protection Agency for implementation of responsibilities; compensation*

To the extent that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency deems such action necessary to the discharge of his functions under title XIV of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.] (relating to safe drinking water) and under other provisions of law, he may appoint personnel to fill not more than thirty scientific, engineering, professional, legal, and administrative positions within the Environmental Protection Agency without regard to the civil service laws and may fix the compensation of such personnel not in excess of the maximum rate payable for GS–18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5.” ([GPO](#))

Multiple EPA employees from previous administrations have confirmed its wide use. “Stan Meiburg, who spent 39 years at EPA, including as acting deputy administrator in the Obama administration, said, “It has been done by both parties, so it has been ratified over time.... These are highly prized positions because you can bring people in without having to go through the usual competition process.” Meiburg remembered both the George W. Bush and Obama administrations having AD hires. ([E&E News](#), 4/4/18)

- “A provision of the Safe Drinking Water Act allows the EPA administrator to hire up to 30 people into the agency, without White House or congressional approval. The provision, meant to help expedite the hiring of experts and allow for more flexible staffing, became law in 1996. In past administrations, it has been used to hire specialists into custom-made roles in especially stressed offices, according to Bob Perciasepe, a former acting EPA administrator.” ([The Atlantic](#), 4/3/18)

When asked about how the AD hiring authority has been used in previous administrations, former EPA employees all had conflicting comments on what it was used for, supporting that the statute gives broad authority to the Administrator. “Stan Meiburg, who spent 39 years at EPA, including as acting deputy administrator in the Obama administration... recalled some of those hires landing as political aides to EPA regional chiefs during those administrations. Meiburg said it made sense that the Trump administration would use the hiring authority for political aides like press officials and schedulers to assist Pruitt. “Those are pretty specialized skills, and there are folks in the political field who have those skills,” said Meiburg, who now teaches at Wake Forest University. “That’s not to say you don’t need a good solid career staff in

public affairs, as well." But Meiburg found it noteworthy that Pruitt had used the hiring authority to bring on deputy assistant administrators. "The use of the AD authority to bring on a political deputy is a little unusual," Meiburg said. "*Most of the AD appointments are at a lower level.* You usually have a non-career SES be a political deputy." ([E&E News](#), 4/4/18)

- ***"The people I knew of in that category were well-seasoned, experienced professionals in their fields,"*** said Ken Kopocis, who headed the Office of Water from 2011 to 2015. "We did not use it as a way to get around the White House. ... It's not designed to fill up your political slots." ([Washington Post](#), 04/04/18)
- "In past administrations, it has been used to *hire specialists into custom-made roles in especially stressed offices*, according to Bob Perciasepe, a former acting EPA administrator." ([The Atlantic](#), 4/3/18)

KEVIN CHMIELEWESKI & SENATE DEMOCRATS' LETTER

ALLEGATION 1 ...

Mr. Chmielewski provided several examples to lawmakers of wasteful security spending beyond justifying the use of first-class travel under the guise of security. This includes the purchase of bulletproof vests and weapons, biometric locks, a security sweep of Administrator Pruitt's office, one or more new SUVs for Administrator Pruitt's travel (rather than obtaining vehicles from the General Services Administration), and a \$30,000 contract with private Italian security personnel entered into by Mr. Nino Perrotta, the Special Agent who leads Administrator Pruitt's security detail. Mr. Chmielewski explained that at least one security-related contract was awarded to an individual who works at Mr. Perrotta's private security firm, and he believes that other contracts may also have been awarded to friends or associates of Mr. Perrotta's.

SECURITY DETAIL FOR THE G-7 SUMMIT IN ITALY ...

EPA Security Detail Followed The Same Security Procedures On The G7 Trip That Have Been Used For The Previous 14 Years. "EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said the security detail 'followed the same procedures for the G7 environmental meeting in Italy that were used during EPA Administrators Stephen Johnson, Lisa Jackson, and Gina McCarthy's trips to Italy. EPA's security procedures have not deviated over the past 14 years.'" ([Reuters](#), 3/20/18)

EPA STATEMENT: "Administrator Pruitt attended numerous G7 meetings with his bilateral counterparts and in terms of security, EPA's Protective Service Detail tried to replicate the same security measures taken when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy traveled to Italy in 2015." – EPA spokesman

BULLETPROOF VEHICLES ...

On April 19, 2018 Fox News Reported That EPA Pushed Back On Claims Of Purchasing Bulletproof Materials, Stating That The Agency Has Never Sought Nor Purchased Any Bulletproof Vehicles, Tires, Or Seat Covers. "EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox told Fox News: 'We would like to put this rumor to rest. EPA has no bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers, the agency has no contracts for any bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers, and the agency never sought any contracts for bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers.'" ([Fox News](#), 4/19/18)

SECURITY SWEEPS/LOCKS ...

EPA Spokesman Jahan Wilcox Stated That "Security Sweeps Are Common Practice In Government, As Former EPA Administrators Lisa Jackson And Gina McCarthy Also Had Their Office Swept." "He added, 'According to EPA's Protective Service, security sweeps are common practice in government, as former EPA Administrators Lisa Jackson and Gina McCarthy also had their office swept.' While there was no competitive bidding for Steinmetz's contract, Wilcox said the agency considered multiple vendors for the biometric locks used in Pruitt's office and for the EPA inspector general." ([The Washington Post](#), 3/6/18)

ALLEGATION 2 ...

Mr. Chmielewski told Congressional staff that Administrator Pruitt spent well beyond the \$5,000 allowed by law to decorate his office, including refinishing an antique desk, purchasing an additional standing desk, paying leases for art on loan from the Smithsonian Institution, framing an 8x10 foot United States flag, and building a \$43,000 soundproof phone booth.

SMITHSONIAN'S POLICY/STATEMENT ...

Chmielewski Claimed That EPA Was Paying Leases For Artwork On Loan From The Smithsonian Institution, This Claim Is False As The Smithsonian Routinely Loans Cabinet Officials Paintings Free Of Charge. "One thing Chmielewski told Democrats was that EPA was 'paying leases for art on loan from the Smithsonian Institution' to furnish Pruitt's office. Chmielewski's also claimed Pruitt 'spent well beyond the \$5,000 allowed by law to decorate' his office, which included 'refinishing an antique desk, purchasing an additional standing desk.' Smithsonian Institution's chief spokeswoman, however, told the New Republic's Emily Atkin they don't lease artwork to federal agencies. Spokeswoman Linda St. Thomas 'we do not charge' for artwork on loan. Atkin noted '[p]aintings and sculptures not on view in the museums are routinely loaned to members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and the White House, she said.' St. Thomas said 'President Barack Obama's EPA administrators also loaned paintings from the Smithsonian American Art Museum,' Atkin reported." ([The Daily Caller](#), 4/13/18)

DESKS ...

EPA Spokesman Jahan Wilcox Stated That "The Administrator Never Considered The Proposal," Regarding Desks. "Asked about the proposed desk purchases, Mr. Wilcox, the E.P.A. spokesman, said that 'the administrator never considered the proposal.'" ([The New York Times](#), 4/5/18)

ALLEGATION 3 ...

Mr. Chmielewski said that Administrator Pruitt insisted on the use of lights and sirens to transport more quickly through traffic to the airport, meetings, and social events on numerous occasions, and that Administrator Pruitt permitted his drivers to speed through residential neighborhoods and red lights, far in excess of posted speed limits.

LIGHTS & SIRENS ...

EPA Stated That "The Security Detail For The Past 15 Years Has Used Them In Very Limited Fashion." "The agency said Mr. Pruitt played no role in deciding when the sirens and lights would be used. 'The security detail for the past 15 years has used them in very limited fashion,' Mr. Wilcox said." ([The New York Times](#), 4/5/18)

ALLEGATION 4 ...

Mr. Chmielewski said that Administrator Pruitt his Director of Scheduling and Advance Millan Hupp acted as a personal real estate representative, spending weeks improperly using federal

government resources and time to contact rental and seller's agents, and touring numerous properties in which he might wish to reside.

HOUSING SEARCH ...

EPA Said That Government Resources Were Used To Find Administrator Pruitt Housing Is "Categorically False." "In a statement, EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox responded, 'The notion that government resources were used to assist in finding housing is categorically false.'" ([The Washington Post](#), 4/3/18)

ALLEGATION 5 ...

Mr. Chmielewski said that Ms. Hupp, at Administrator Pruitt 's direction, sought to have the agency enter into a \$100,000 per month contract to rent a private jet, which would have cost more than the Administrator's annual travel budget of approximately \$450,000. Mr. Chmielewski claimed he successfully prevented this from occurring, as it would have been far in excess of the total travel budget of the office.

PRIVATE PLANE CONTRACT ...

On April 2, 2018 The Washington Post Reported That EPA Received A Solicitation From A Private Jet Firm, But Decided To Reject It And Continue To Fly Commercial. "'This is not news,' EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said in a statement Monday. 'EPA's [chief financial officer] regularly receives solicitations for this type of travel, we did our due diligence, found it was not as cost efficient and continued to fly commercial.'" ([The Washington Post](#), 4/2/18)

ALLEGATION 6 ...

Mr. Chmielewski said he observed that Administrator Pruitt 's travel destinations are often dictated by his desire to visit particular cities or countries rather than official business, and that he told staff to something to do [in those locations]? to justify the use of taxpayer funds. He stated that you direct your staff to book flights on Delta, even when they are not the federal government's contract carrier for the route, because Administrator Pruitt wanted to accrue more frequent flyer miles.

PRUITT'S TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON ...

On October 1, 2017 Tulsa World Reported That EPA Spokesman Stated That "Administrator Pruitt Has Made It A Priority To Get Out Of The Deep State Of Washington," And Hear From Americans That Were Ignored By The Past Administration. "'Administrator Pruitt has made it a priority to get out of the deep state of Washington and into cities, towns and states across the country hearing from Americans that were ignored by the past Administration,' said EPA Spokesman Jahan Wilcox. 'When traveling, it is our policy to always fly commercial. There were few instances that dictated otherwise and the decision to fly private or government aircraft was made based on necessity or efficiency.'" ([Tulsa World](#), 10/1/17)

On April 21, 2018 The Washington Post Reported That Pruitt Has Visited Over 30 States.

“Administrator Pruitt has visited over 30 states. We will continue to visit those ignored by the Obama administration and implement President Trump’s agenda of regulatory certainty and environmental stewardship,’ Wilcox said.” (The Washington Post, 4/21/18)

ALLEGATION 7 ...

He also informed Congressional staff that Administrator Pruitt directed EPA staff to find reasons to travel to Oklahoma, so that he could be in his home state for long weekends at taxpayers expense. Mr. Chmielewski described the official meetings in Oklahoma as being pretextual, such as scheduling an official meeting with an old friend. According to Mr. Chmielewski, Administrator Pruitt frequently stayed in hotels that exceeded the allowable US. government per diem, sometimes even exceeding the 300 percent cap permitted in exceptional circumstances. He added that while Administrator Pruitt was reimbursed for these expenses, on some occasions members of his security detail were not reimbursed for the portion of their expenses that exceeded allowable maximums.

OKLAHOMA TRAVEL ...

On February 17, 2018, CNN Reported That EPA Officials Treat Oklahoma “Exactly Like We Did North Dakota, Minnesota, Indiana And Every Other State We Visited During The Tour.”

“Reached for comment, EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman said: ‘With respect to visiting Guymon, it was an important stop on our WOTUS [Waters of the United States] tour where we were able to hear comments from people who have been directly affected by the rule, whose voices have been disregarded in the rulemaking process. By visiting with government officials and citizens, we treated Oklahoma exactly like we did North Dakota, Minnesota, Indiana and every other state we visited during the tour.’” (CNN, 2/17/18)

ALLEGATION 8 ...

After the EPA Chief of Staff raised concerns about Administrator Pruitt travel, Mr. Chmielewski reported that he texted his Chief of Staff to tell him that his presence was no longer welcome at scheduling meetings for your travel. Mr. Chmielewski further described Administrator Pruitt’s efforts to marginalize your Chief of Staff as he refused to follow some actions you directed, and he described Ms. Hupp and Sarah Greenwalt, your senior counsel, as running the agency.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS ...

EPA STATEMENT: “Our scheduling and public engagement offices lead this process and involve other staff members as needed.” – EPA Spokesman

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/23/2018 8:22:30 PM
To: Russell, Richard (EPW) [Richard_Russell@epw.senate.gov]; Horner, Elizabeth (EPW) [Elizabeth_Horner@epw.senate.gov]
Attachments: April 27, 2018.docx

Folks, I wanted to provide you with information which your members may find useful now or for future hearings.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/23/2018 8:03:13 PM
To: mary.martin@mail.house.gov
Attachments: April 27, 2018.docx

Mary, I wanted to provide Chairman Shimkus and the Republican members of the committee with information which they may find helpful for Thursday.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/23/2018 8:01:59 PM
To: dave.Lesstrang@mail.house.gov; kristin.richmond@mail.house.gov
Attachments: April 27, 2018.docx

Dave and Kristin, I wanted to provide some information which the Republican members of the subcommittee may find helpful.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/23/2018 8:00:49 PM
To: Kennett, Dave [Dave.Kennett@mail.house.gov]
Attachments: April 27, 2018.docx

Dave, I wanted to provide the chairman with some information which the subcommittee members may appreciate. Thanks.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/23/2018 7:53:19 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
CC: Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]; Hewitt, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=41b19dd598d340bb8032923d902d4bd1-Hewitt, Jam]; Abboud, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6f5af791a1842f1adcc088cbf9ed3ce-Abboud, Mic]; Block, Molly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=60d0c681a16441a0b4fa16aa2dd4b9c5-Block, Moll]; Daniell, Kelsi [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cd867173479344b3bda202b3004ff830-Daniell, Ke]; Ford, Hayley [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4748a9029cf74453a20ee8ac9527830c-Ford, Hayle]
Subject: RE: April 26, 2018

You guys have done a masterful job.

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 3:15 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Ford, Hayley <ford.hayley@epa.gov>
Subject: April 26, 2018

Below and attached is a document that you can share and is the result of work from everyone in the communications shop.

For April 26, 2018 Hearing

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INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

FALSE CLAIM ...

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt wasted taxpayer money on three international travel trips. What's not told is that the trip to Italy was for the G-7 environmental summit and the Morocco trip was to meet with government leaders about environmental issues. Finally, a planned trip to Australia was cancelled so Administrator Pruitt could stay in the U.S. and monitor relief efforts related to Hurricane Harvey.

Additionally, Pruitt's international travel has been criticized despite the fact he has taken fewer international trips and spent less money than his two predecessors: Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson.

PRECEDENT FOR EPA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ...

- Administrator Pruitt has taken 2 international trips: total cost \$160,000.
- Administrator McCarthy took 10 international trips: total cost \$630,000.
- Administrator Jackson took 4 international trips: total cost \$332,000 (including \$155,000 on one trip to China.)

Former EPA Administrators Gina McCarthy And Lisa Jackson Spent More On International Travel Than Pruitt.

"Internal EPA documents provided to the Washington Free Beacon reveal Obama administration EPA administrators jet setting cost taxpayers roughly \$1 million. The EPA has spent \$124,000 for Pruitt and his security detail to travel to the G-7 summit in Italy and a trip to Morocco. McCarthy took 10 international trips in three years, including trips to Paris, Florence, Dubai, and Tokyo. Pruitt has come under scrutiny from the media for the travel costs, which include \$84,000 for the G-7 summit in Italy last summer in airfare for Pruitt and security... McCarthy spent \$629,743 on airfare and security for international trips between 2013 and 2016... Internal EPA documents show costs for trips to Ghana (\$68,382), Peru (\$45,140), Tokyo (\$74,738), Paris (\$41,321), Dubai (\$90,368), Tokyo (\$67,703), Florence (\$56,193), Vancouver (\$62,247), Vietnam (\$68,268), and Beijing (\$55,385)." ([The Washington Free Beacon](#), 03/21/2018)

Lisa Jackson's China Trip Exceeded \$155,000. "Between 2009 and 2012, Jackson spent \$64,963 for trips to Tel Aviv; \$59,950 to Rio de Janeiro; \$51,436 to Montreal; and \$155,764 to Beijing, Guangzhou, and Shanghai." ([The Washington Free Beacon](#), 03/21/2018)

ITALY ...

Administrator Pruitt Promoted The Importance Of International Engagement At His First G7 Meeting. "U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt attended his first G7 Environmental Ministerial Meeting, taking part in thoughtful bilateral discussions with his G7 counterparts. Less than two weeks after President Trump announced the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Accord, Administrator Pruitt emphasized now is the time to move forward with a discussion to find ways to positively engage with other countries in order to protect and use our natural resources. 'The United States has always been a world leader when it comes to environmental stewardship, and that was demonstrated on a global stage today,' Administrator Pruitt said. 'I believe engaging in international discussion is of the utmost importance to the United States when it comes to environmental issues. I want to thank the government of Italy and Minister Galletti for the tremendous hospitality and leadership over this meeting.' 'The protection of the environment and public health,' said Italian Minister of the Environment Gian Luca Galletti, 'is a common goal for Italy and the United States. There are many themes that see our common commitment. The presence of Administrator Pruitt at the G7 Environment in Bologna has been a very important element that allowed us to start constructive dialogue on all environmental issues as well as to open new channels of business cooperation between our two countries.' Administrator Pruitt returned to the United States Sunday evening in order to attend the President's first full cabinet meeting scheduled for Monday. ([Press Release](#), 06/11/17)

Both Lisa Jackson And Gina McCarthy Attended The Same G-7 Meeting As Pruitt And EPA Security Details Followed The Same Protocol As Past Trips. "'Administrator Pruitt's security detail followed the same procedures for the G-7 environmental meeting in Italy that were used during EPA Administrators Stephen Johnson, Lisa Jackson and Gina McCarthy's trips to Italy,' agency spokesman Jahan Wilcox said in an email. 'EPA's security procedures have not deviated over the past 14 years.'" ([The Washington Post](#), 03/20/2018)

- **Gina McCarthy Also Visited The Vatican While In Rome.** “Explaining her visit Friday to the Vatican, the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said she wanted to let Pope Francis know that President Barack Obama is ‘aligned with him’ on the issue of climate change and is taking action.” ([The Forum on Religion and Ecology](#), 01/30/2015)

Media Reports Suggest Pruitt’s Trip To Italy Cost Too Much On Travel And Security. “Pruitt said he took official meetings during the entire four-day trip to Italy for the G-7 environmental summit in June of last year... Documents released earlier this week show that the cost of the trip was \$30,000 more than previously reported, bringing the total to around \$120,000. An EPA document showed that the cost of travel for Pruitt's security detail was \$30,559 the week of the trip. ([ABC News](#), 03/22/2018)

Pruitt Critics Purposefully Ignore The Significance Of The G7 Italy Trip. “That’s a lot of money for Mr. Pruitt to tour the Vatican, pose for photos and tell his European counterparts that global warming doesn’t matter,” Eric Schaeffer, executive director of the Environmental Integrity Project, said in a statement Tuesday. ‘And it doesn’t even include salary costs for everyone who signed up for this tour. Maybe next time he should just send his regrets.’” ([The Washington Post](#), 03/20/2018)

EPA STATEMENT: “Administrator Pruitt attended numerous G7 meetings with his bilateral counterparts and in terms of security, EPA’s Protective Service Detail tried to replicate the same security measures taken when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy traveled to Italy in 2015.” – EPA spokesman

On February 13, 2018 CBS News Reported That EPA Had “A Certificate Justifying The Return Flight From Milan,” Allowing Administrator Pruitt To Fly On A Foreign Carrier Due To Lack Of Options Available From American Carriers. “A certificate justifying the return flight from Milan that the EPA provided to CBS News said Pruitt flew on a foreign carrier because it was the only available flight ‘that would get the administrator back in time’ to attend a Cabinet meeting with President Trump the next day.” ([CBS News](#), 2/13/18)

MOROCCO ...

Administrator Pruitt Promotes Environmental Cooperation With Moroccan Government Officials. “U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt attended bilateral meetings in Morocco this week where he outlined U.S. environmental priorities for updating the Environmental Work Plan under the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement and the potential benefit of liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports on Morocco’s economy. This visit comes on the heels of an EPA-led workshop in Rabat that shared U.S. best practices for solid waste management, public participation and crisis communication pursuant to the former Environmental Work Plan. ‘These meetings allowed us to directly convey our priorities and best practices with Moroccan leaders, as well as identify opportunities for continued cooperation, as our two countries further talks around the Environmental Work Plan,’ said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. ‘We are committed to working closely with countries like Morocco to enhance environmental stewardship around the world.’ Administrator Pruitt met with Moroccan Secretary of State of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mounia Boucetta, where the two discussed the importance of continued collaboration between the two countries. Following the meeting with Secretary Boucetta, he met with the Moroccan Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, Aziz Rabbah, to discuss new and ongoing areas of collaboration under the Free Trade Agreement and the country’s interest in importing LNG. Also during the visit to Morocco, Administrator Pruitt met with Moroccan Minister of Justice and Liberties, Mohamed Aujjar. The two focused on the importance of adhering to rule of law and the ongoing strategic cooperation between the two countries. Administrator Pruitt also toured the IRESEN Green Energy Park, where he saw firsthand the work being done to promote environmental innovation including solar energy across Morocco. ([Press Release](#), 12/12/17)

The Washington Post Criticized Pruitt For Spending A Night In Paris, When In Reality His Outbound Flight

Was Cancelled And He Was Forced To Spend A Night Near Charles De Gaulle Airport In France. “An EPA official said the trip was affected by weather delays, which prompted the group to stay in Paris on Dec. 10 before arriving in Rabat the next day.” ([The Washington Post](#), 03/20/18)

ABC News Falsely Reported That Pruitt Had One Scheduled Meeting For The First Day, When In Fact His Flight Was Cancelled Due To Snow At Dulles And His Schedule Had To Be Adjusted. “Wilcox said Saturday that Pruitt originally had more meetings scheduled that first day in Morocco but his plans changed after weather delayed his flight out of Dulles International Airport on Dec. 9” ([ABC News](#), 04/21/18)

ABC News Criticized EPA Over A Portion Of Pruitt’s Calendar Which Was Redacted, When The Redaction Was For A Senior Staff Meeting, It Listed Of All 98 Attendees For A Meeting In Washington That He Never Attended. “The four-page redaction to the Morocco schedule is simply a calendar entry for a Senior Staff Meeting at EPA Headquarters in DC, which the Administrator did not attend because he was in Morocco. The entry includes all attendees invited to the meeting, which is the reason for the extensive redaction. Every meeting that took place in Morocco has been publicized and included on the Administrator’s schedule.”

Despite The False Narrative From The Media That Pruitt Went To Morocco To Solely Promote Natural Gas, He Attended Numerous Meetings On A Wide Range Of Topics. “Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt returned Wednesday from a trip to Morocco, where he talked with officials about their interest in importing natural gas as well as other areas of ‘continued cooperation’ between the two countries... The purpose of the trip sparked questions from environmental groups, Democratic lawmakers and some industry experts, who noted that EPA plays no formal role in overseeing natural gas exports. Such activities are overseen primarily by the Energy Department and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.” ([The Washington Post](#), 12/13/2017)

Pruitt Had Numerous Meetings Pertaining To Agency Priorities, Including Disaster Relief, Solid Waste Response, And The Bilateral Free Trade Agreement Between The U.S. And Morocco. “Pruitt met with three top Moroccan officials, according to the agency statement, including the minister of energy, mines and sustainable development; the minister of justice and liberties; and the secretary of state to the minister of foreign affairs. Wilcox said Pruitt ‘discussed our bilateral free trade agreement, solid waste response, disaster relief and communications with top Moroccan officials...’ His visit came shortly after the EPA held a workshop in Rabat about solid waste management, public participation and crisis communication. Morocco, the only African country with which the United States has a free-trade agreement, is a signatory to the 2015 Paris climate agreement and has collaborated in the past with U.S. officials on its push to expand domestic solar energy production. During the trip, Moroccan officials took Pruitt on a tour of the IRESEN Green Energy Park, which the EPA said showed the administrator ‘firsthand the work being done to promote environmental innovation, including solar energy across Morocco.’” ([The Washington Post](#), 12/13/2017)

AUSTRALIA ...

Members Of Administrator Pruitt’s Advance Team And Security Detail Traveled To Australia Prior To Administrator Pruitt’s Scheduled Trip To Meet With Australian Officials. “Pruitt was scheduled to participate in environment-related meetings with Australian officials on a visit to Sydney and Canberra...Wilcox said the original itinerary included a meeting with Australia’s parliament.” ([Reuters](#), 04/19/2018)

EPA STATEMENT: “Government employees who travel for longer than 14 hours are able to fly in business class and our advance team, which included Millan Hupp and Kevin Chmielewski, was adhering to the federal government’s travel policy. Their job was to arrive before Administrator Pruitt, who had meetings planned with the Australian government, but his trip was cancelled due to Hurricane Harvey.” – EPA spokesman

Government Officials Are Authorized To Travel In Business Class If Flights Exceed 14 hours. “The purchase of business-class tickets was not a violation of U.S. government policy, which allows federal employees to travel business class on trips lasting 14 hours or more.” ([Reuters](#), 04/19/2018)

The Trip Was Ultimately Cancelled Due To Emergency Agency Needs Surrounding Hurricane Harvey. “EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said Pruitt’s trip was canceled because of Hurricane Harvey, which caused major flooding and damage in Texas. Pruitt ended up going to Corpus Christi, Texas to assess the agency’s relief efforts instead.” ([Reuters](#), 04/19/2018)

On August 30, 2017, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Visited Corpus Christi “To Assess EPA Relief Efforts And Thank Responders.” “U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt traveled to Corpus Christi today to assess EPA relief efforts and thank responders. Administrator Pruitt also met with local and state leaders to discuss continued relief measures in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.” ([EPA Press Office](#), 8/30/17)

Pruitt Stated That He Saw The “Devastation Endured By Texas” Firsthand While Visiting Corpus Christi. ““The devastation endured by Texas this week is unfathomable. As I saw firsthand today, the Lone Star State has shown commendable perseverance in helping their fellow neighbors through this crisis,’ said Administrator Pruitt. ‘EPA is committed to working with our federal, state, and local partners to provide relief to the affected regions.’” ([EPA Press Office](#), 8/30/17)

Pruitt Had Been Scheduled To Participate In Environment-Related Meetings In Sydney And Canberra, Australia, But Cancelled The Trips Due To Hurricane Harvey. “Pruitt was scheduled to participate in environment-related meetings with Australian officials on a visit to Sydney and Canberra. EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said Pruitt’s trip was canceled because of Hurricane Harvey, which caused major flooding and damage in Texas. Pruitt ended up going to Corpus Christi, Texas to assess the agency’s relief efforts instead.” ([Reuters](#), 4/19/18)

PRUITT’S ONE-BEDROOM LEASE ON CAPITOL HILL

VICKI AND STEVE HART ...

EPA STATEMENT: “When Administrator Pruitt arrived in Washington, he stayed at a condo owned by a friend and paid her for it. Vicki Hart is the sole owner of this complex and is a healthcare lobbyist.” - EPA spokesman.

Steven Hart Is A Friend Of The Administrator’s From Oklahoma And The Living Situation Was Temporary Until A Permanent Washington, DC Residence Could Be Arranged. ““My wife wasn’t here yet. My children were back in Oklahoma,’ Pruitt said. ‘The needs were different. As soon as my wife came up, we moved to a different location where I couldn’t just be living out of a suitcase...’ Speaking of Hart, Pruitt said: ‘He’s the chairman of a law firm. I’ve know this gentleman for years. He’s an Oklahoman, and his firm represents these [energy industry] clients, not him. There has been no connection whatsoever in that regard.’” ([The Daily Signal](#), 04/03/2018)

Steven Hart Did Meet With Administrator Pruitt in 2017 But Claims It Was Done For A Friend And Not In An Official Capacity. “Mr. Hart disputed on Saturday that his story had changed, saying in a written statement that his work with Mr. Treacy was not compensated and not on behalf of Smithfield. ‘I assisted a friend who serves on the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and this is inaccurately being tied to Smithfield Foods,’ Mr. Hart said. ‘I was not paid for this assistance and any suggestion that I lobbied for Smithfield Foods is inaccurate...’ a spokesman for Mr. Hart, Ryan Williams, told The New York Times that Mr. Hart had met with Mr. Pruitt in

2017, along with Dennis Treacy, a former Smithfield executive vice president. Mr. Treacy now serves on the board of directors of the Smithfield Foundation, which the food company describes as its philanthropic arm with a focus of combating hunger.” ([The New York Times](#), 04/21/2018)

Steven Hart Attended A Meeting With Dennis Treacy, Former Executive Vice President Of Smithfield Foods, And Administrator Pruitt Met To Discuss Restoring The Chesapeake Bay And Was Not Conducted At The Request Of Smithfield Foods. ““Smithfield Foods, Inc. has learned Williams & Jensen has advocated in support of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs to help the Chesapeake Bay,’ the company said in a statement Saturday. ‘The objective, while laudable, was not undertaken at the direction of or on behalf of Smithfield Foods. These activities were conducted at the request of a then former executive and current Smithfield Foundation board member, Dennis Treacy, in his personal capacity.’” ([The New York Times](#), 04/21/2018)

EPA ETHICS OFFICIALS CLEARED PRUITT’S LEASE ...

On March 29, 2018, ABC News Reported EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Lived In A Condo Owned By The Wife Of A Lobbyist Steven Hart. “Hart confirmed to ABC News in a brief interview that Pruitt had lived in the flat, which is owned by a limited liability company that links to an address listed to Hart and his wife Vicki Hart, a lobbyist with expertise in the healthcare arena. Steven Hart said Vicki Hart co-owns the condo. He said his wife was not the majority owner, but would not identify her partners.” ([ABC News](#), 03/29/2018)

EPA Ethics Counsel Concludes Arrangement Wasn’t Ethics Issue Because Pruitt Paid Rent. “Bloomberg reviewed six canceled checks paid by Pruitt totaling \$6,100 from March 18 through Sept 1, 2017. He paid \$450 on March 18, \$900 on April 26, \$850 on May 15, \$700 on June 4, \$1,500 on July 22 and \$1,700 on Sept 1... Justina Fugh, who has been ethics counsel at the EPA for a dozen years, said the arrangement wasn’t an ethics issue because Pruitt paid rent... Fugh, the EPA’s ethics counsel, said no gift was involved. It was a routine business arrangement between Pruitt and an individual, not a lobbying firm, she added.” ([Bloomberg](#), 03/29/18)

EPA Ethics Official Concluded That Pruitt’s \$50 A Night / \$1,500 A Month Was Market Rate For One Bedroom On Capitol Hill. “In a memo obtained by CBS News, the Environmental Protection Agency’s Ethics Official and Deputy Counsel concluded that EPA Administrator’s Scott Pruitt’s housing arrangement did not breach any ethical violations or constitute a gift. The memo, signed by EPA Deputy Counsel Kevin Minoli, says that the EPA’s investigation determined that ‘when checked against the price of traditional month-to-month rentals that would most likely offer increased privacy and exclusivity of use, a converted amount of \$1,500 for Tenant’s portion of the rent under the lease is within the range of amounts charged for locations no further than three blocks away.’” ([CBS News](#), 4/4/18)

OBAMA’S TREASURY SECRETARY TIMOTHY GEITNER LIVED RENT-FREE IN A BANKING EXECUTIVE’S HOME ...

During The Previous Administration, Then-Treasury Secretary Timothy Geitner Lived Rent-Free In A \$3.5 Million Townhouse Owned By A Bank Executive While Geitner Was Overseeing The Bailout Crisis For Wall Street Banks “Geithner lived with Zelikow’s family in the six-bedroom house, which is next door to the residence of the ambassador of Monaco and not far from the home of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, during most of his first eight months running the Treasury Department. At that time, Geithner was overseeing the bailout of several huge Wall Street banks, including JPMorgan, which received \$25 billion in federal rescue funds from the TARP program... The bank, JPMorgan Chase, has just rehired one of Geithner’s oldest and

dearest friends, Daniel Zelikow, as a top executive, only a year after the Treasury secretary moved out of his rent-free accommodations in Zelikow's \$3.5 million Washington townhouse." ([The Daily Beast](#), 08/15/10)

THREATS AGAINST PRUITT

ON APRIL 6, 2018 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FALSELY CLAIMED THERE WERE NO THREATS AGAINST ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT ...

On April 6, 2018, The Associated Press Falsely Reported That There Are No Threats Against Administrator Pruitt Because No Arrests Or Charges Have Been Filed. “A nationwide search of state and federal court records by AP found no case where anyone has been arrested or charged with threatening Pruitt. EPA’s press office did not respond Friday to provide details of any specific threats or arrests.” (The Associated Press, 4/6/18)

PREVIOUS MEDIA REPORTS DISPUTE THIS CLAIM ...

On April 11, 2018, CBS News Reported That Administrator Pruitt Received Numerous Threats Including One “Deemed Serious Enough To Prosecute” By The Department Of Justice. “CBS News has obtained an August 2017 report prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency’s office of inspector general that contains a list of 13 threats made against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and his family. The threats range in severity, credibility and specificity. One tweet flagged by investigators said, ‘Pruitt, I’m gonna find you and put a bullet between your eyes. Don’t think I’m joking. I’m planning this.’ Investigators believe the threat was made by someone living in India... In certain cases, cases were referred to the Justice Department, but just one was deemed serious enough to prosecute. The report covers the period from Oct. 2016 to Aug. 2017.” (CBS News, 4/11/18)

On January 11, 2018 E&E News Reported That “Pruitt Has Faced More Threats Than His Immediate Predecessors, Former Administrators Gina McCarthy And Lisa Jackson.” “In an interview with E&E News, Patrick Sullivan, EPA’s assistant IG for investigations, said the watchdog opened roughly 70 threat probes in fiscal 2017, including cases and complaints related to EPA facilities and personnel. That surpassed the total of about 45 such probes into threats against EPA from fiscal 2016. Sullivan also said Pruitt has faced more threats than his immediate predecessors, former administrators Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson. ‘He has had significantly more threats directed against him. There’s absolutely no question about it,’ Sullivan said.” (E&E News, 1/11/18)

On November 1, 2017 The Wall Street Journal Reported On “More Than 70 Credible Threats Against EPA Staffers, With A Disproportionate Number Menacing Administrator Scott Pruitt And His Family.” “Since the Trump Administration took office, the agency has investigated more than 70 credible threats against EPA staffers, with a disproportionate number menacing Administrator Scott Pruitt and his family... Mr. Pruitt has received more than five times as many threats as his predecessor, Gina McCarthy. These include explicit death threats. Some have referenced Mr. Pruitt’s home address. Federal law enforcement has determined that some of those threatening Mr. Pruitt are likely capable of carrying out acts of violence. EPA security has already caught suspects prowling around the administrator’s neighborhood.” (The Wall Street Journal, 11/1/17)

EPA’S PROTECTICE SERVICE DETAIL & SPENDING

EPA STATEMENTS ...

Spending Decisions Are Made By EPA’S Protective Service Detail. “Security decisions are made by EPA’s Protective Service Detail and are similar to security protocol across the federal government.” – EPA spokesman

Pruitt Has Faced An Unprecedented Amount Of Threats Against Him. “According to EPA’s Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and security decisions

are made by EPA's Protective Service Detail. Americans should all agree that members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats." – EPA spokesman

SECURE PHONE LINE ...

Pruitt's \$43,000 Soundproof Phone Booth Started More Modestly. "In the beginning, it was supposed to be just a secure telephone line. But over the course of four months last year, that phone line destined for the office of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt morphed from a no-more-than \$13,500 project into a \$43,000 privacy booth, complete with silenced ventilation and "noise-lock" paneling to keep conversations from being overheard, according to documents obtained by Bloomberg News." ([Bloomberg](#), 4/20/18)

Costs Ballooned After Initial Cost Estimate Was Created. "EPA officials seeking bids for the project initially estimated a privacy booth would cost \$13,500 on a July 24, 2017 requisition form. Another \$11,500 was added on Aug. 17, and an additional \$570 was included on Aug. 23 as the staff closed in on a final vendor. That \$25,570, including a \$1,000 after-hours delivery charge, was just for the booth itself; total costs ballooned to \$43,000 after prep work and installation, including leveling a concrete floor to insert the pre-fabricated steel box. Former Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff Reginald Allen – who had the top career post in the EPA – sent booth costs of \$24,570 to Chmielewski on Aug. 23, adding that he was waiting for an estimate for the floor from Jefferson's team. Another email says funding was being handled by Allen's office." ([Bloomberg](#), 4/20/18)

Career Staff, Not Pruitt, Were Behind EPA's \$43K Phone Booth. "However, the documents 'show the heavy role played by career officials who have purchasing power — and suggest political appointees without the authority to approve acquisitions were less involved,' Dlouhy reported. 'Administrator Pruitt simply requested a secure phone line but never asked for a soundproof booth, nor did he have knowledge of its purchase,' EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox told Bloomberg. The secure phone booth was initially estimated to cost \$13,500, but soon morphed into \$43,000 project, 'complete with silenced ventilation and 'noise-lock' paneling to keep conversations from being overheard,' according to Bloomberg." ([The Daily Caller](#), 4/20/18)

EPA Career Officials Oversaw The Contract For The Phone Line. "Career officials at the Environmental Protection Agency who oversaw the funding and construction of a controversial secure phone booth for Administrator Scott Pruitt's office were acting at the behest of political appointees and security staff, documents obtained by CBS News show. The documents show that the project started soliciting bids at an estimated \$13,500 last summer. It eventually cost \$43,000, which included painting, floor and ceiling work and prepping the room. Presented with four pricing options ranging between \$20,560 and \$24,570, career officials chose the most expensively priced because it included 'expedited materials and working outside regular business hours.'" ([CBS News](#), 04/20/18)

The Daily Caller: Career Staff, Not Pruitt, Were Behind EPA's \$43K Phone Booth [trib.al/OxEFT64](https://www.trib.al/OxEFT64) ([twitter](#), 04/22/2018)

Jennifer Dlouhy, Bloomberg Reporter: New documents show how a possibly modest request for a secure phone line in EPA Chief Pruitt's office morphed into a \$43,000 soundproof booth w/ noise-lock paneling & silenced ventilation. ([twitter](#), 04/20/18)

Steve Milloy, JunkScience: JunkScience: Pfft... another line of attack on @EPAScottPruitt fizzles. Pruitt only asked for a secure phone line for \$13,500. But the bureaucracy tripled the cost. ([twitter](#), 04/20/18)

Chris Mooney, Washington Post Reporter: Pruitt's \$43,000 phone booth started more modestly [bloomberg.com/news/articles/...](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/...) via [@bpolitics](#) ([twitter](#), 04/20/18)

Major Garrett, CBS Chief White House Correspondent: Documents provide window into Scott Pruitt's controversial \$43,000 phone booth [cbsnews.com/news/documents...](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/documents...) via @CBSPolitics ([twitter](#), 04/20/2018)

CBS News: Documents provide window into Scott Pruitt's controversial \$43,000 phone booth [cbsnews.com/news/documents...](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/documents...) via @CBSPolitics ([twitter](#), 04/20/2018)

BULLET-PROOF VEHICLES MYTH ...

EPA Corrects Media Reports About Bulletproof Tires And Bullet-Resistant Seat Covers For Pruitt. "The Environmental Protection Agency is correcting the record, claiming news reports about bulletproof tires and bullet-resistant seat covers to protect its embattled chief Scott Pruitt at government expense were inaccurate. EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox told Fox News: 'We would like to put this rumor to rest. EPA has no bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers, the agency has no contracts for any bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers, and the agency never sought any contracts for bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers.' Wilcox also sent to Fox News 'the federal purchase order, which reveals there was no purchase of bulletproof tires or bullet-resistant covers.' Wilcox added, 'In response to an individual attempting to assassinate numerous Congressional Republicans while they practiced for a charity baseball game, EPA's Protective Service Detail placed bullet-proof vests over each seat.'" ([Fox News](#), 4/18/18)

SECURITY SWEEPS ...

Former EPA Administrators Lisa Jackson And Gina McCarthy Also Had Their Office Swept. "He added, 'According to EPA's Protective Service, security sweeps are common practice in government, as former EPA Administrators Lisa Jackson and Gina McCarthy also had their office swept.' While there was no competitive bidding for Steinmetz's [\$3,000] contract, Wilcox said the agency considered multiple vendors for the biometric locks used in Pruitt's office and for the EPA inspector general." ([The Washington Post](#), 3/6/18)

FIRST CLASS TRAVEL

Security Incidents Prompted EPA Officials To Move Administrator Pruitt To First Or Business Class. “The shift to first-class travel began after May 2017, when EPA officials saw how recognizable Pruitt was to the general public, Barnett said. There were ‘incidents where he was being approached – vulgar language, people were being somewhat aggressive towards him – and so the special agent in charge provided documentation – a memo – to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator.’” ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/2018)

Prior To Every Flight, EPA Submitted A Security-Related Waiver To Approve Administrator Pruitt’s Travel Arrangements. “EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said the agency submits a security-related waiver for each trip Pruitt takes.” ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/2018)

EPA Submitted Letter To House Oversight Committee Chairman Explaining Waiver. “In a letter to Gowdy, EPA said that Pruitt’s first class travel was approved ‘on an individualized basis,’ and was necessary due to security concerns. His security detail, the letter said, ‘identified specific, ongoing threats associated with the administration administrator’s air travel and, therefore, shifted his class based on security protocols that require him to be near the front of the plane.’” ([The Daily Beast](#), 3/20/18)

EPA Spent \$105,000 On First Class Travel For Administrator Pruitt For Travel. “Environmental Protection Agency administration Scott Pruitt spent about \$105,000 on first class airfare since assuming the post, records obtained by The Daily Beast show. The details of Pruitt’s travel are spelled out in documents sent to congressional investigators on Tuesday as part of the House Oversight Committee’s probe into the use of taxpayer resources for official government travel.” ([The Daily Beast](#), 3/20/18)

In February 2018, Administrator Pruitt Announced He Directed Security Team To Accommodate Threats To Allow Him To Fly Coach. “There’s a change coming, because look the security threat matters,’ Pruitt said. ‘What I’ve told them going forward is this: There is a change occurring, you’re going to accommodate the security threats as they exist, you’re going to accommodate those in all ways, alternate ways, up to and including flying coach, and that is what’s going to happen on my very next flight. So those things are happening right away.’” ([CBS News](#), 02/28/2018)

The Associated Press Used Flights On Southwest Airlines – Which Does Not Have First Class – To Push Their False Narrative That Pruitt Flies Coach When He Is Paying For Personal Travel. “The AP released a report on Wednesday titled: ‘EPA chief sat in coach when not flying on taxpayer’s dime.’ The headline — and the opening lede — suggested that the leader of the EPA makes more economical decisions when taking personal flights, as opposed to his travel when conducting official business. However, there is one major detail included about Southwest Airlines: They do not offer first-class travel. This detail was included in the body of the AP article, but the headline and angle of the report framed Pruitt as a hypocrite when it comes to personal travel.” ([The Daily Caller](#), 4/19/18)

The Associated Press Falsely Reported That EPA Confirmed Their Claim. “This was not the only detail the EPA took issue with. The AP claimed on Twitter that it confirmed their story with the agency. However, EPA spokesperson Jahan Wilcox said this tweet is false and that the agency never confirmed their report. ‘The same security procedures are followed whether Administrator Pruitt is on official or personal travel,’ the official statement provided to the AP read. The statement neither confirmed nor denied the story.” ([The Daily Caller](#), 4/19/18)

PRUITT'S EPA EMAIL ACCOUNTS

EPA STATEMENT: “When EPA receives a FOIA request concerning the Administrator’s emails, all accounts associated are searched before we respond to that request.” – Steve Fine, Acting Chief Information Officer

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy had 4 email accounts: 5178RAMcCarthy@epa.gov, Adm13McCarthy@epa.gov, GinaMcCarthy.epaadministrator@epa.gov, and McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov.

Obama EPA officials said multiple email addresses for the Administrator “have been standard practice since the Clinton Administration.” “The internal account exists so that Jackson’s communications with other government officials aren’t buried under the crush of emails flooding into her public account, jackson.lisap@epa.gov, which got 1.5 million emails in fiscal year 2012, EPA says. The agency says such dual-account arrangements have been standard practice since the Clinton administration, when EPA Administrator Carol Browner was first assigned two @epa.gov email addresses. ‘For more than a decade, EPA administrators have been assigned two official, government-issued email accounts: a public account and an internal account,’ EPA said in a statement to POLITICO.” ([Lisa Jackson's 'Windsor' knot](#), Politico, 11/20/12)

Lisa Jackson had one email for the public and one internal account to communicate with staff and other government officials. ““The email address for the public account is posted on EPA’s website and is used by hundreds of thousands of Americans to send messages to the administrator. The internal account is an everyday, working email account of the administrator to communicate with staff and other government officials.”” ([Lisa Jackson's 'Windsor' knot](#), Politico, 11/20/12)

George W. Bush’s Administration said there was nothing usual about Lisa Jackson’s multiple email accounts. “High-ranking officials from George W. Bush’s EPA agree that the arrangement is nothing new, and say they were never under the impression that the internal account was a secret. Senior EPA leadership and EPA regional administrators had the email address, as did anyone to whom the administrator provided it, and the messages were all considered part of the public record. When it comes to public records and FOIA requests, ‘both the public and internal accounts are reviewed for responsive records, and responsive records from both accounts are provided to FOIA requesters,’ EPA said.” ([Lisa Jackson's 'Windsor' knot](#), Politico, 11/20/12)

RAISES TO STAFF & AD HIRING AUTHORITY

The Atlantic falsely claimed that Administrator Scott Pruitt was responsible for substantial pay raises to two staff. “In early March, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt approached the White House with a request: He wanted substantial pay raises for two of his closest aides.” ([The Atlantic](#), 4/3/18)

Administrator Pruitt swiftly denied his involvement in the raises. “I found out this yesterday and I corrected the action and we are in the process of finding out how it took place and correcting it,” – EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt ([Fox News](#), 4/4/18)

Ryan Jackson, EPA Chief of Staff, went on the record stating that Administrator Pruitt had zero knowledge of the raises. “Administrator Pruitt had zero knowledge of the amount of the raises, nor the process by which they transpired. These kind of personnel actions are handled by EPA's HR officials, Presidential Personnel Office and me,” Jackson said in a prepared statement Monday. – Ryan Jackson, EPA Chief of Staff ([Politico](#), 4/9/18)

Jackson provided Politico with reasoning for the substantial raises but confirmed that they had been reversed per Pruitt's direction. “He [Ryan Jackson] said the staffers were to be paid “similar to their peers given their responsibilities over the past year,” and that their original salaries started lower than their colleagues’ because they had moved to Washington, D.C., from Oklahoma, where salaries are lower. He added that the raises had been reversed, as Pruitt instructed, and any future changes would go through the White House for evaluation.” ([Politico](#), 4/9/18)

EPA's Office of Inspector General issued a Management Alert on Salary Increases for Certain Administratively Determined Positions on 4/16/18, which referenced EPA's further reasoning for the raises. “These salary determinations for appointees were made by the Agency chief of staff, White House liaison, and Agency human resources staff based on previous salary history and increases in salary were made due to either new and additional responsibilities or promotions. The salaries involved were meant to correspond directly with the responsibilities the individual held and to attempt to ensure no salary disparities among positions of equivalent or similar responsibilities with other political appointees as much as possible. As employees continue to work in the agency reaching milestones like one year of employment and/or continue to take on new responsibilities, we will further evaluate their salaries to ensure the employees compensation is commensurate with their seniority and work.” (EPA's 4/15/18 response to OIG's 4/11/18 draft report, [EPA Office of Inspector General](#), 4/16/18) [See attached for OIG management alert]

EPA's Office of Inspector General further provides the HR documentation supporting the raises in this Management Alert, which show Ryan Jackson approved the raises. Documents show that authorizations for these raises (Employee A and Employee B), were signed “Ryan Jackson for Scott Pruitt.” ([EPA Office of Inspector General](#), 4/16/18) [See attached for OIG management alert]

EPA STATEMENT: “The Safe Drinking Water Act provides the EPA with broad authority to appoint scientific, engineering, professional, legal, and administrative positions within EPA without regard to the civil service laws. This is clear authority that has been relied on by previous administrations,” EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said in a statement. ([The Atlantic](#), 4/3/18)

- **Direct Text of Statute:** “§ 300j–10. Appointment of scientific, etc., personnel by Administrator of Environmental Protection Agency for implementation of responsibilities; compensation

To the extent that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency deems such action necessary to the discharge of his functions under title XIV of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.] (relating to safe drinking water) and under other provisions of law, he may appoint personnel to fill not more than thirty scientific, engineering, professional, legal, and administrative positions within the Environmental Protection Agency without regard to the civil service laws and may fix the compensation of such personnel not in excess of the maximum rate payable for GS-18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5." (GPO)

Multiple EPA employees from previous administrations have confirmed its wide use. "Stan Meiburg, who spent 39 years at EPA, including as acting deputy administrator in the Obama administration, said, "It has been done by both parties, so it has been ratified over time.... These are highly prized positions because you can bring people in without having to go through the usual competition process." Meiburg remembered both the George W. Bush and Obama administrations having AD hires. (E&E News, 4/4/18)

- "A provision of the Safe Drinking Water Act allows the EPA administrator to hire up to 30 people into the agency, without White House or congressional approval. The provision, meant to help expedite the hiring of experts and allow for more flexible staffing, became law in 1996. In past administrations, it has been used to hire specialists into custom-made roles in especially stressed offices, according to Bob Perciasepe, a former acting EPA administrator." (The Atlantic, 4/3/18)

When asked about how the AD hiring authority has been used in previous administrations, former EPA employees all had conflicting comments on what it was used for, supporting that the statute gives broad authority to the Administrator. "Stan Meiburg, who spent 39 years at EPA, including as acting deputy administrator in the Obama administration... recalled some of those hires landing as political aides to EPA regional chiefs during those administrations. Meiburg said it made sense that the Trump administration would use the hiring authority for political aides like press officials and schedulers to assist Pruitt. "Those are pretty specialized skills, and there are folks in the political field who have those skills," said Meiburg, who now teaches at Wake Forest University. "That's not to say you don't need a good solid career staff in public affairs, as well." But Meiburg found it noteworthy that Pruitt had used the hiring authority to bring on deputy assistant administrators. "The use of the AD authority to bring on a political deputy is a little unusual," Meiburg said. "Most of the AD appointments are at a lower level. You usually have a non-career SES be a political deputy." (E&E News, 4/4/18)

- ***"The people I knew of in that category were well-seasoned, experienced professionals in their fields,"*** said Ken Kopocis, who headed the Office of Water from 2011 to 2015. "We did not use it as a way to get around the White House. ... It's not designed to fill up your political slots." (Washington Post, 04/04/18)
- "In past administrations, it has been used to *hire specialists into custom-made roles in especially stressed offices*, according to Bob Perciasepe, a former acting EPA administrator." (The Atlantic, 4/3/18)

KEVIN CHMIELEWESKI & SENATE DEMOCRATS' LETTER

ALLEGATION 1 ...

Mr. Chmielewski provided several examples to lawmakers of wasteful security spending beyond justifying the use of first-class travel under the guise of security. This includes the purchase of bulletproof vests and weapons, biometric locks, a security sweep of Administrator Pruitt's office, one or more new SUVs for Administrator Pruitt's travel (rather than obtaining vehicles from the General Services Administration), and a \$30,000 contract with private Italian security personnel entered into by Mr. Nino Perrotta, the Special Agent who leads Administrator Pruitt's security detail. Mr. Chmielewski explained that at least one security-related contract was awarded to an individual who works at Mr. Perrotta's private security firm, and he believes that other contracts may also have been awarded to friends or associates of Mr. Perrotta's.

SECURITY DETAIL FOR THE G-7 SUMMIT IN ITALY ...

EPA Security Detail Followed The Same Security Procedures On The G7 Trip That Have Been Used For The Previous 14 Years. "EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said the security detail 'followed the same procedures for the G7 environmental meeting in Italy that were used during EPA Administrators Stephen Johnson, Lisa Jackson, and Gina McCarthy's trips to Italy. EPA's security procedures have not deviated over the past 14 years.'" ([Reuters](#), 3/20/18)

EPA STATEMENT: "Administrator Pruitt attended numerous G7 meetings with his bilateral counterparts and in terms of security, EPA's Protective Service Detail tried to replicate the same security measures taken when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy traveled to Italy in 2015." – EPA spokesman

BULLETPROOF VEHICLES ...

On April 19, 2018 Fox News Reported That EPA Pushed Back On Claims Of Purchasing Bulletproof Materials, Stating That The Agency Has Never Sought Nor Purchased Any Bulletproof Vehicles, Tires, Or Seat Covers. "EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox told Fox News: 'We would like to put this rumor to rest. EPA has no bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers, the agency has no contracts for any bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers, and the agency never sought any contracts for bulletproof vehicles, tires or seat covers.'" ([Fox News](#), 4/19/18)

SECURITY SWEEPS/LOCKS ...

EPA Spokesman Jahan Wilcox Stated That "Security Sweeps Are Common Practice In Government, As Former EPA Administrators Lisa Jackson And Gina McCarthy Also Had Their Office Swept." "He added, 'According to EPA's Protective Service, security sweeps are common practice in government, as former EPA Administrators Lisa Jackson and Gina McCarthy also had their office swept.' While there was no competitive bidding for Steinmetz's contract, Wilcox said the agency considered multiple vendors for the biometric locks used in Pruitt's office and for the EPA inspector general." ([The Washington Post](#), 3/6/18)

ALLEGATION 2 ...

Mr. Chmielewski told Congressional staff that Administrator Pruitt spent well beyond the \$5,000 allowed by law to decorate his office, including refinishing an antique desk, purchasing an additional standing desk, paying leases for art on loan from the Smithsonian Institution, framing an 8x10 foot United States flag, and building a \$43,000 soundproof phone booth.

SMITHSONIAN'S POLICY/STATEMENT ...

Chmielewski Claimed That EPA Was Paying Leases For Artwork On Loan From The Smithsonian Institution, This Claim Is False As The Smithsonian Routinely Loans Cabinet Officials Paintings Free Of Charge. "One thing Chmielewski told Democrats was that EPA was 'paying leases for art on loan from the Smithsonian Institution' to furnish Pruitt's office. Chmielewski's also claimed Pruitt 'spent well beyond the \$5,000 allowed by law to decorate' his office, which included 'refinishing an antique desk, purchasing an additional standing desk.'

Smithsonian Institution's chief spokeswoman, however, told the New Republic's Emily Atkin they don't lease artwork to federal agencies. Spokeswoman Linda St. Thomas 'we do not charge' for artwork on loan. Atkin noted '[p]aintings and sculptures not on view in the museums are routinely loaned to members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and the White House, she said.' St. Thomas said 'President Barack Obama's EPA administrators also loaned paintings from the Smithsonian American Art Museum,' Atkin reported." ([The Daily Caller](#), 4/13/18)

DESKS ...

EPA Spokesman Jahan Wilcox Stated That "The Administrator Never Considered The Proposal," Regarding Desks. "Asked about the proposed desk purchases, Mr. Wilcox, the E.P.A. spokesman, said that 'the administrator never considered the proposal.'" ([The New York Times](#), 4/5/18)

ALLEGATION 3 ...

Mr. Chmielewski said that Administrator Pruitt insisted on the use of lights and sirens to transport more quickly through traffic to the airport, meetings, and social events on numerous occasions, and that Administrator Pruitt permitted his drivers to speed through residential neighborhoods and red lights, far in excess of posted speed limits.

LIGHTS & SIRENS ...

EPA Stated That "The Security Detail For The Past 15 Years Has Used Them In Very Limited Fashion." "The agency said Mr. Pruitt played no role in deciding when the sirens and lights would be used. 'The security detail for the past 15 years has used them in very limited fashion,' Mr. Wilcox said." ([The New York Times](#), 4/5/18)

ALLEGATION 4 ...

Mr. Chmielewski said that Administrator Pruitt his Director of Scheduling and Advance Millan Hupp acted as a personal real estate representative, spending weeks improperly using federal government resources and time to contact rental and seller's agents, and touring numerous properties in which he might wish to reside.

HOUSING SEARCH ...

EPA Said That Government Resources Were Used To Find Administrator Pruitt Housing Is "Categorically False." "In a statement, EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox responded, 'The notion that government resources were used to assist in finding housing is categorically false.'" ([The Washington Post](#), 4/3/18)

ALLEGATION 5 ...

Mr. Chmielewski said that Ms. Hupp, at Administrator Pruitt 's direction, sought to have the agency enter into a \$100,000 per month contract to rent a private jet, which would have cost more than the Administrator's annual travel budget of approximately \$450,000. Mr. Chmielewski claimed he successfully prevented this from occurring, as it would have been far in excess of the total travel budget of the office.

PRIVATE PLANE CONTRACT ...

On April 2, 2018 The Washington Post Reported That EPA Received A Solicitation From A Private Jet Firm, But Decided To Reject It And Continue To Fly Commercial. "'This is not news,' EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said in a statement Monday. 'EPA's [chief financial officer] regularly receives solicitations for this type of travel, we did our due diligence, found it was not as cost efficient and continued to fly commercial.'" ([The Washington Post](#), 4/2/18)

ALLEGATION 6 ...

Mr. Chmielewski said he observed that Administrator Pruitt 's travel destinations are often dictated by his desire to visit particular cities or countries rather than official business, and that he told staff to something to do [in those locations]? to justify the use of taxpayer funds. He stated that you direct your staff to book flights

on Delta, even when they are not the federal government's contract carrier for the route, because Administrator Pruitt wanted to accrue more frequent flyer miles.

PRUITT'S TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON ...

On October 1, 2017 Tulsa World Reported That EPA Spokesman Stated That "Administrator Pruitt Has Made It A Priority To Get Out Of The Deep State Of Washington," And Hear From Americans That Were Ignored By The Past Administration. "'Administrator Pruitt has made it a priority to get out of the deep state of Washington and into cities, towns and states across the country hearing from Americans that were ignored by the past Administration,' said EPA Spokesman Jahan Wilcox. 'When traveling, it is our policy to always fly commercial. There were few instances that dictated otherwise and the decision to fly private or government aircraft was made based on necessity or efficiency.'" (Tulsa World, 10/1/17)

On April 21, 2018 The Washington Post Reported That Pruitt Has Visited Over 30 States. "'Administrator Pruitt has visited over 30 states. We will continue to visit those ignored by the Obama administration and implement President Trump's agenda of regulatory certainty and environmental stewardship,' Wilcox said." (The Washington Post, 4/21/18)

ALLEGATION 7 ...

He also informed Congressional staff that Administrator Pruitt directed EPA staff to find reasons to travel to Oklahoma, so that he could be in his home state for long weekends at taxpayers expense. Mr. Chmielewski described the official meetings in Oklahoma as being pretextual, such as scheduling an official meeting with an old friend. According to Mr. Chmielewski, Administrator Pruitt frequently stayed in hotels that exceeded the allowable US. government per diem, sometimes even exceeding the 300 percent cap permitted in exceptional circumstances. He added that while Administrator Pruitt was reimbursed for these expenses, on some occasions members of his security detail were not reimbursed for the portion of their expenses that exceeded allowable maximums.

OKLAHOMA TRAVEL ...

On February 17, 2018, CNN Reported That EPA Officials Treat Oklahoma "Exactly Like We Did North Dakota, Minnesota, Indiana And Every Other State We Visited During The Tour." "Reached for comment, EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman said: 'With respect to visiting Guymon, it was an important stop on our WOTUS [Waters of the United States] tour where we were able to hear comments from people who have been directly affected by the rule, whose voices have been disregarded in the rulemaking process. By visiting with government officials and citizens, we treated Oklahoma exactly like we did North Dakota, Minnesota, Indiana and every other state we visited during the tour.'" (CNN, 2/17/18)

ALLEGATION 8 ...

After the EPA Chief of Staff raised concerns about Administrator Pruitt travel, Mr. Chmielewski reported that he texted his Chief of Staff to tell him that his presence was no longer welcome at scheduling meetings for your travel. Mr. Chmielewski further described Administrator Pruitt's efforts to marginalize your Chief of Staff as he refused to follow some actions you directed, and he described Ms. Hupp and Sarah Greenwalt, your senior counsel, as running the agency.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS ...

EPA STATEMENT: "Our scheduling and public engagement offices lead this process and involve other staff members as needed." – EPA Spokesman

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 5/30/2018 4:01:20 PM
To: White, Elizabeth [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f8af641a6306479c9026142ef3b02bd7-White, Eliz]
Subject: FW: Will Trump's pick to run EPA in California show up for work?

This is what I was referencing.

From: [Ex. 6] [mailto:[Ex. 6]]
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2018 10:26 AM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Will Trump's pick to run EPA in California show up for work?

:-)

Sent from my iPhone

On May 18, 2018, at 6:17 AM, Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov> wrote:

Well, Oklahomans know what a bull wrangler is. If that's what you are, that's what we need. Welcome to the EPA.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA

[Ex. 6]

On May 17, 2018, at 11:46 PM, "[Ex. 6]" <[Ex. 6]> wrote:

Almost funny. I am sure our distractors would love it if I didn't show up to work. On the contrary I look forward to showing up 24/7
7 days a week 354 days a year non-stop.
I am relentless.
Best regards,
Mike

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-epa-pick-san-francisco-20180517-story.html>

Will Trump's pick to run EPA in California show up for work?



The Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco skyline from the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)

The White House may have finally found someone to take on the stress of overseeing President Trump's fossil fuel-friendly environmental agenda in the heart of hostile territory: California and nearby states.

But there's one glaring problem.

The guy officials have queued up to lead the Environmental Protection Agency's headquarters in San Francisco doesn't want to live anywhere near San Francisco.

That doesn't appear to be stopping the administration from hiring Santa Barbara County GOP stalwart Mike Stoker, a politico well positioned to annoy the powers that be in California.

He credits himself with conceiving the "lock her up" chant that Trump rallygoers shouted in their rage against Hillary Clinton. He was the spokesman for one of the state's most embattled oil companies. He questions the scientific consensus on climate change.

None of those things are disqualifying, even if some in California think they should be. But Stoker's refusal to work in the liberal City by the Bay has put the administration in a pickle. Instead he wants to oversee the 700 or so enforcement officers, scientists, researchers and others guiding environmental protection in California and nearby states from a small, sparsely staffed Los Angeles satellite office.

That's a big ask in an agency already reeling from investigations into the travel habits of its leaders, including the taxpayer-funded flights back home to Oklahoma by EPA chief Scott Pruitt, some of which were in the first-class cabin.

California Sen. Dianne Feinstein fired off a letter to Pruitt on Thursday warning of the consequences of allowing Stoker to be an "absentee" chief of EPA Region 9. She demanded to know how the arrangement could possibly work, and what costs taxpayers would bear.

The EPA weeks ago alerted Stoker allies in Santa Barbara that his appointment was imminent. But no official announcement has come as his backers, including EPA political appointees, scramble to figure out how he can run a large San Francisco-based bureaucracy without showing up there, according to staffers inside the agency who spoke on condition that their names not be used. Some longtime career officials at the EPA are deeply skeptical, and warn such an arrangement could create yet more ethics troubles for the agency.

The last time a regional EPA chief tried juggling work at the San Francisco headquarters with trips home to Southern California, federal investigators discovered some \$69,000 in flights they said may have been inappropriately billed to taxpayers. That was during the late years of the George W. Bush administration. Feinstein reminded Pruitt about that investigation, and questioned if his EPA is heeding the lessons learned from it.

Stoker, a former Santa Barbara county supervisor who made his entry into politics in the 1980s as a strident opponent of a ballot measure limiting offshore oil development, did not return calls and emails. A statement from the EPA said only, "we have no personnel announcements to make at this time."

Environmental groups joined Feinstein in expressing bewilderment that the region chief may keep living in Carpenteria, which is hours from even the Los Angeles office.

"You can't do that job without face-to-face contact with the scientists, engineers, lawyers, and other professionals in Region 9's office who do the heavy lifting," said Eric Schaeffer, a former chief of civil enforcement at EPA who now runs the nonprofit Environmental Integrity Project. "Phoning it in is not going to work."

Finding a leader for Region 9 has been vexing for the Trump administration. One ally of industry after another rejected its overtures to lead the feisty office of career professionals who have little enthusiasm for the Trump agenda. The pay hardly compares to what potential recruits are making in the private sector, the cost of living in San Francisco is crushing and the neighbors are not particularly hospitable to folks carrying the "Make America Great Again" torch.

For such reasons, Stoker seemed a good fit. A Trump delegate at the 2016 Republican National Convention who delights in mocking liberals on social media, Stoker is a rare commodity on the California coast: a resilient Republican.

"He's a bull wrangler, and that's exactly what we need," said Andy Caldwell, executive director of the Santa Barbara County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business. Caldwell learned of the coming appointment when the EPA sought a quote from him to put in its news release. He said Stoker is skilled at brokering deals among disparate interests.

Not all Stoker's fellow Republicans are as impressed. Dale Francisco, a former chair of the Santa Barbara County GOP, wrote several senators in March to urge they reject Stoker's appointment for a different high-level job in the administration, running the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Francisco said in an interview that Stoker has never managed a major organization.

"You can be the world's most wonderful guy, but without any management experience, you should not be managing as large an organization as EPA Region 9. Period," Francisco said in an interview. "How is he going to

manage this agency in a state where elected leadership is utterly opposed to Trump and get anything done?"

Other Republicans attributed Francisco's attacks to bitterness over Stoker's role advising the local GOP party in its dispute with Francisco's girlfriend, who was fired as the party's executive director. The woman brought her complaints of discrimination and retaliation to state labor investigators, who declined to take any action.

Stoker's record suggests he would be an unflinching champion of the rollbacks of fuel economy standards, air quality rules and other federal environmental protections that are riling California's leaders.

He criticized lawsuits that California municipalities filed against the oil industry for their role in climate change, telling the Santa Barbara News-Press last year that they ignore "the conflicting evidence about global warming, and as we all know, there is conflicting evidence."

One of the oil companies in the area most despised by environmentalists, Santa Maria-based Greka Oil & Gas, which has a history of regulatory troubles, spills and violations at its California facilities, was represented by Stoker.

That company, now known as HVI Cat Canyon Inc., has been in a years-long legal fight with the EPA and federal prosecutors over pollution from its operations. In 2011 the Department of Justice [filed suit](#) alleging a series of spills at the company's California facilities violated state and federal environmental laws. Last month, the company was hit with a \$12.5-million fine by state regulators over violations at an oil field in Orange County.

Stoker's alignment with forces long at odds with the EPA makes him a particularly troubling pick for environmentalists. "Once again," said Linda Krop, chief counsel of the Environmental Defense Center in Santa Barbara, "it's putting someone in charge who actually opposes the mission of the agency."

[The latest from Washington »](#)

[More stories from Evan Halper »](#)

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Tony Barboza is a reporter who covers air quality and the environment with a focus on Southern California. He has been on staff at the Los Angeles Times since 2006, is a graduate of Pomona College and completed a Ted Scripps Fellowship in Environmental Journalism at the University of Colorado.



Evan Halper writes about a broad range of policy issues out of Washington D.C., with particular emphasis on how Washington regulates, agitates and very often miscalculates in its dealings with California. Before heading east, he was the Los Angeles Times bureau chief in Sacramento, where he spent a decade untangling California's epic budget mess and political dysfunction.

Please enable JavaScript to view the <http://solidopinion.com> and <http://solidopinion.com/comments> powered by SolidOpinion.

President Trump signs spending bill

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 3/28/2018 1:40:05 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: Fwd: Morning Energy: Friends in high places — Survey tracks concern for global warming — Anti-Pruitt ads aimed at Trump

If it comes up again you may want to take it to a step further and say I would suggest that a campaign funded by the Sierra club running ads on msnbc and morning joe attempting to influence President Trump may not be particularly successful. But please don't take my word for it, spend your money.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA

Ex. 6

Begin forwarded message:

From: "POLITICO Pro Energy" <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Date: March 28, 2018 at 5:52:07 AM EDT
To: <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: Morning Energy: Friends in high places — Survey tracks concern for global warming — Anti-Pruitt ads aimed at Trump
Reply-To: "POLITICO subscriptions" <reply-fe981374746c047d76-630326_HTML-786581600-1376319-0@politicoemail.com>

By Kelsey Tamborrino | 03/28/2018 05:50 AM EDT

With help from Emily Holden and Nick Juliano

FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES: EPA announced Tuesday that it had reached a cooperative research agreement with Israeli company Water-Gen, almost a year after Administrator Scott Pruitt met with the company at the request of GOP megadonor Sheldon Adelson. As part of the agreement, the agency will study one of the company's products: an "atmospheric water generator" that essentially acts as a giant dehumidifier to make drinkable water out of the air. The technology could be useful following large-scale disasters, like last year's Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. "EPA believes in facilitating cooperative research efforts that will foster innovative solutions to pressing environmental issues, and looks forward to working with other companies and organizations on technology development efforts," Pruitt said in a statement Tuesday.

Pro's Alex Guillén reports Pruitt met with Water-Gen executives — including its executive chairman and U.S. division president — on March 29, 2017 at the "request of Sheldon Adelson," according to copies of his calendar released after activists sued. Adelson's relationship with the company is unclear. It is also not clear whether the executives specifically pitched an R&D agreement at that meeting. And Adelson wasn't the company's only high-profile fan. Alan Dershowitz, the prominent American attorney and a member of Water-Gen's board of directors, pitched the technology at last year's gathering of American Israel Public Affairs Committee, just two days before the Pruitt meeting.

The agreement itself is not unusual, Alex reports. Known as a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, the agreement lets EPA work with the company on testing the generators and studying potential uses in the U.S. The agency said it entered into eight similar agreements during fiscal year 2017, and dozens of less complex agreements to share data or materials. EPA did not pay the company and is not being paid, it said. Read more.

WELCOME TO WEDNESDAY! I'm your host Kelsey Tamborrino. Josh Cohen, host of the "More Power To You" podcast, was first to identify former Commerce Secretary Donald Evans as the only former Cabinet member to be selected as "designated survivor" twice during past State of the Union addresses. For today: What is the longest U.S. river that does not form a state border? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to ktamborrino@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter [@kelseytam](https://twitter.com/kelseytam), [@Morning_Energy](https://twitter.com/Morning_Energy) and [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro).

POLITICO Space is our new, free weekly briefing on the policies and personalities shaping the second space age in Washington and beyond. **Sign up today to start receiving the newsletter right at launch on April 6**. Presented by Boeing.

SURVEY SAYS: Concern for global warming remains steady among Americans, but the partisanship that clings to the issue is only widening, a new survey out today from Gallup found. Despite a president who has called global warming "a hoax" and a Cabinet filled with officials who reject mainstream climate science, the survey found the majority of Americans — 66 percent — overall say most scientists think global warming is occurring. Meanwhile, 64 percent say it's caused by human activity and a separate 60 percent believe the effects of the warming have already begun.

By the numbers: Forty-five percent of Americans say they believe global warming will pose a serious threat in their lifetime — the highest percentage ever recorded for that question since Gallup started asking in 1997. It was the only topic that saw increased concern among both major parties. Views on the issue, Gallup says, are becoming "increasingly partisan and therefore entrenched."

Parsing the divide: The poll found partisan gaps were widening slightly when compared with 2017. Sixty-nine percent of Republicans say global warming is exaggerated, while only 4 percent of Democrats say the same. As a whole, Democrats take global warming seriously, while Republicans view it skeptically, particularly in terms of whether they worry about the issue and believe it is caused by human activity.

Independents are trending toward Republicans, although a solid majority still view climate change as a problem, Gallup found. This year, 62 percent of independents said global warming is caused by human activities, down from 70 percent in 2017, while 62 percent said they worry a great deal or fair amount about the issue, a 5-point drop from last year. The poll was conducted March 1-8 among a random sample of 1,041 adults. Read the report here.

GREENS TRY TO GET TRUMP'S ATTENTION: Environmental and progressive advocates today launch a campaign to unseat Pruitt, with ads aimed right at President Donald Trump. The Sierra Club is running "Boot Pruitt" spots through Friday on "Fox & Friends" and "Morning Joe," shows watched by the president. The ad quotes Pruitt in a 2016 radio show calling Trump an "empty vessel," on the Constitution and rule of law and criticizes him for flying first class.

"**Every audience needs to hear what Scott Pruitt** is doing to our climate and air and water, including the president," Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said. "We also want to make sure the president hears what Pruitt thinks of him." Sierra Club will promote the ad on Facebook markets in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, where Pruitt could be mulling a future run for office. Christy Goldfuss, vice president on energy and environment at the Center for American Progress, said calls from environmentalists might not be enough to get Pruitt to step down, but they add to criticism of his travel habits, his comments about the president and reports that the White House has disapproved of his ambition to become attorney general.

The 10-group effort includes a website, a Twitter account, petition drives, and digital ads on Twitter and in POLITICO, The Hill and Roll Call. Other groups involved are: Hip Hop Caucus, Friends of the Earth, Green For All, Defend Our Future, Green Latinos, League of Conservation Voters, Environmental Defense Fund and Natural Resources Defense Council. EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said the campaign is "old news as environmental groups have been recycling these baseless attacks since the day Scott Pruitt was nominated." Pruitt is "proud to advance President Trump's agenda on regulatory certainty and environmental stewardship," he said.

WHITE HOUSE GETS NEW ENERGY AIDE: A career State Department official is heading to the White House to work on international energy policy, E&E reports. Landon Derentz, an adviser in State's Bureau of Energy Resources, is joining the National Economic Council, where he will report to Wells Griffith, who Trump brought in from the Energy Department earlier this month. More from E&E here.

DOE LIFTS COAL IN NEW STUDY: New analysis from the Energy Department's National Energy Technology Laboratory touts coal as crucial to meeting power generation needs during severe weather, like the recent "bomb cyclone" that elevated wholesale natural gas and power prices around the country. The NETL analysis, released Tuesday, examined organized markets for independent system operators during the recent deep freeze and found across six ISOs that coal provided 55 percent of the incremental daily generation needed. Combined, the analysis found fossil and nuclear energy plants provided 89 percent of electricity during peak demand across all six ISOs, with 69 percent coming from fossil energy plants, and nearly all from baseload sources.

"**Coal was the most resilient form of power generation** during the event and that removing coal from the energy mix would worsen threats to the electrical grid's dependability during future severe weather events," said Peter Balash of NETL's Energy Systems Analysis team, in a statement. The report echoes arguments from Energy Secretary Rick Perry's earlier failed attempt to prop up coal and nuclear plants in the name of grid resilience.

CEOs DEFEND RESPONSE: Meanwhile, utilities in New York defended their storm responses at a hearing in Albany where state lawmakers demanded change. CEOs from NYSEG, Con Edison and Central Hudson were grilled Tuesday on their companies' response to what they said were unprecedented winter storms, Pro's Marie French reports. Read more.

FORD: WE AREN'T ASKING FOR A ROLLBACK: Ford Motor Company's Executive Chairman Bill Ford and President and CEO Jim Hackett penned a missive on fuel emissions

standards on Tuesday, as an April 1 deadline to decide whether to rewrite the rules covering model year 2022-2025 vehicles edges closer. "We support increasing clean car standards through 2025 and are not asking for a rollback," the pair writes. "We want one set of standards nationally, along with additional flexibility to help us provide more affordable options for our customers. We believe that working together with EPA, NHTSA and California, we can deliver on this standard." Read it [here](#).

STORM SURGES: The Trump administration is quietly overhauling the nation's flood insurance program, bypassing Congress along the way, Pro's Zachary Warmbrodt reports. FEMA is pulling administrative levers to try to expand flood insurance coverage before future storms hit. The idea is to rely on assistance from the private insurance industry and the broader financial markets to address shortcomings that Harvey and other hurricanes exposed. Read [more](#).

WHERE'S PERRY? Keeping up with [his tour](#) of national labs, Perry will visit the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory today, where he'll also hold a town hall meeting at 9:30 a.m. The Energy secretary has spent the last few days in California, even stopping for In-N-Out Burger on Tuesday. See that [here](#).

IN THE BANK: Some of the world's largest banks funneled \$115 billion into fossil fuels last year, an increase of 11 percent from 2016, a new report that tracked 36 banks found. The report, from the Rainforest Action Network and other green groups, found that the single largest driver of that increase came from financing the tar sands sector. Read the report [here](#).

SUNSET, STRIPPED: While Trump weighs whether to pull the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal, former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz refuted claims that the deal is flawed because of its "sunset clauses." Moniz wrote in The Boston Globe that the "most robust verification measures the world has ever known" are at the heart of the deal and argued against claims the deal just delays an inevitably armed Iran. "The monitoring requirement is nothing like the inadequate verification that was in place in Iran in the past," Moniz writes "... If Iran denies timely access to a suspected nuclear site, sanctions on Iran can be quickly snapped back in place, and the world will be required to enforce them. There is no sunset." Read it [here](#).

THAT'S A NEW ONE: A Massachusetts judge acquitted 13 protesters Tuesday, after they argued their pipeline protest was necessary to stop climate change. More than 200 protesters were arrested in 2015 for their protest of the West Roxbury Lateral Pipeline, 13 of which were set to go to trial on Tuesday, the West Roxbury Patch [reports](#). But Judge Mary Ann Driscoll of the West Roxbury District Court found all 13 defendants not guilty, after letting them testify briefly on the necessity of their actions. Each defendant outlined how he or she was driven to take part in the protest as part of a necessity to address climate change, the Independent [reports](#).

QUICK HITS

— North Korea is firing up a reactor. Why that could upset Trump's talks with Kim, [The New York Times](#).

— Fishermen suit against Atlantic marine monument moves ahead, [Associated Press](#).

— Move to open CRS reports spotlights agency's climate debate, [E&E News](#).

— Report: SCE&G can afford to lose most of the nuclear charges from customers, [The Post and Courier](#).

— Sources: California's ready to retaliate if Trump cuts auto rules, [Bloomberg](#).

— California attorney general says ready to defend vehicle efficiency standards, [Reuters](#).

HAPPENING TODAY

8:00 a.m. — The American Association of Petroleum Geologists holds [Super Basins Leadership Conference](#), Houston

9:00 a.m. — Western stakeholder [discussion](#) on "Putting the Public First — A Principled Vision for Oil and Gas Development on Our Public Lands," 14th and F Streets NW

11:30 a.m. — The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs [discussion](#) on "Russia and Energy Security in Southeast Europe," 1957 E Street NW

12:00 p.m. — The U.S. Energy Association [brown bag discussion](#) on reliability challenges and solutions, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW

5:30 p.m. — The Women's Council on Energy and the Environment hosts monthly Happy Hour, 1330 U St, NW

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/newsletters/morning-energy/2018/03/friends-in-high-places-152222>

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Anti-secrecy lawsuits soaring against Pruitt's EPA [Back](#)

By Emily Holden | 02/25/2018 06:25 PM EDT

The Environmental Protection Agency has experienced a huge surge in open records lawsuits since President Donald Trump took office, an analysis of data reviewed by POLITICO shows — a trend that comes amid mounting criticism of [EPA's secrecy](#) about Administrator Scott Pruitt's travels, meetings and policy decisions.

The legal attacks also reflect widespread interest in the sweeping changes Pruitt is enacting.

The suits have come from open government groups, environmentalists and even conservative organizations that have run into a wall trying to pry information out of Pruitt's agency. The documents they're seeking involve a broad swath of decisions, ranging from EPA's reversals of the Obama administration's landmark climate change and water rules to pesticide approvals and plans for dealing with the nation's most polluted toxic waste sites.

Several of the cases involve requests for the administrator's schedules and travel records, which EPA released routinely under past administrations but now refuses to make public except in response to lawsuits. Pruitt has drawn criticism for withholding information about those matters, and for the expenses he has run up by demanding round-the-clock security, installing an

eavesdropping-proof chamber in his office and flying first class to avoid potential threats from critics in the coach cabins.

All told, plaintiffs have filed 55 public records lawsuits against EPA since Trump's inauguration, according to POLITICO's review of a database of cases compiled by The FOIA Project, an initiative run by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University.

Forty-six of those lawsuits came in 2017, making it the busiest calendar year by far for open-records cases brought against EPA, according to data stretching back to 1992. The second-busiest year was 2015, when plaintiffs filed 22 such suits against the agency as it was completing major rules on topics such as wetlands protection and power plants' carbon pollution. The federal government as a whole has seen a rise in lawsuits over public records during Trump's presidency, but not at anywhere near the rapid uptick EPA is experiencing.

Former President George W. Bush's EPA — hardly a darling of the environmental movement — faced only 57 FOIA lawsuits during his entire presidency, according to the database's list of cases.

The agency has been especially slow to resolve information requests directed specifically at Pruitt's office, according to a separate data analysis that the Project on Government Oversight conducted for POLITICO.

Pruitt's critics say the surge demonstrates how blatantly EPA is flouting the Freedom of Information Act under his reign.

"The FOIA process isn't optional," Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) said in an emailed statement. "The American people are entitled to know what government officials, including Mr. Pruitt, are doing with their time and taxpayer money. Yet, from the agency's refusal to document major environmental policy decisions, to the fictitious 'blanket waiver' that it tried to use to justify Mr. Pruitt's travel expenses, this EPA is evasive when it should be working to be transparent."

EPA has seen a jump in FOIA requests under the Trump administration, especially for information specifically from Pruitt's office. That increase, plus the agency's new emphasis on answering years-old requests before addressing newer ones, has frustrated groups seeking the documents behind Pruitt's rollback of environmental regulations.

From Jan. 20, 2017, to the end of last year, EPA received 11,431 FOIA requests, up about 17 percent compared with an equivalent period during former President Barack Obama's last year in office, according to the analysis by POGO. Requests targeted at Pruitt's office in particular rose fivefold to 1,181.

But Pruitt's office has closed only about 17 percent of the requests that deal specifically with his activities. EPA has been faster to resolve requests to other offices — the agency overall has closed 79 percent of FOIA requests filed since Trump's swearing-in, and its Washington headquarters has closed 57 percent, the POGO numbers show. Closed cases include those in which EPA either provided some or all of the requested documents or declined to provide them.

If EPA ignores a FOIA request for more than a month or rejects it, filers can take the agency to court to try to force it to hand over documents.

The 55 FOIA lawsuits filed against EPA since Trump took office compare with 11 filed in the final 12 months of the Obama administration, according to The FOIA Project's database.

Those lawsuits, filed by groups ranging from Earthjustice to the conservative Cause of Action Institute, are seeking evidence of what businesses Pruitt might have consulted before deciding how to regulate pesticides, what information EPA considered in postponing rules for coal-fired power plants discharging polluted wastewater into waterways, and whether agency staffers are using encrypted messaging apps to evade records laws.

The lawsuits aim to compel EPA to provide Pruitt's calendars and messages, as well as records about Pruitt's plans for holding a debate about the scientific reality of climate change, and what he's said in closed-door speeches to industry groups. The Sierra Club is also seeking documents about how EPA is processing FOIA requests, and two groups — Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility — filed a suit last week alleging that Pruitt has illegally told staffers not to take notes.

Environmental groups say they've seen a marked slowdown since Trump took office.

"As the administration has shown us time and time again, they're operating under a cloud of secrecy that is further underscored by agencies like the EPA and their delay tactics by not responding to FOIA requests within the time frame that the statute requires," said Margaret Townsend, an open government staff attorney at an environmental group called the Center for Biological Diversity. "The administration is so favorable to industry at the expense of human health and the environment. The American people don't have the same ability — even though they have the right — to get this information."

Eric Schaeffer, director of the Environmental Integrity Project, said EPA's tactics seem designed to throw sand in the gears of the FOIA process.

"I think the idea is make it take a long time," he said. "Why would you do that? Maybe that will result in fewer requests and less disclosure and maybe [they will] be out of here before some of this stuff starts turning up."

But Lee Steven, assistant vice president at the Cause of Action Institute, said his group has long had trouble getting public records from EPA, even before Pruitt took over.

"We've found that if we really want to get movement on these FOIA requests, we have to sue," said Steven, whose group is suing over records showing which staffers may be using encrypted messaging apps like Signal. "Most institutions that do FOIA requests don't have the resources, time or expertise to do that. That's not how it should be. You should not have to sue as a matter of course."

EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman said the agency is focused on clearing a backlog of requests left over from previous administrations, while responding to "the large volume of incoming requests." EPA had more than 650 requests open from previous years as of early October and has since closed 60 percent of them, Bowman said.

FOIA staffers recently participated in a multiday event with EPA's Office of General Counsel to more efficiently process requests submitted to Pruitt's office, and they will take part in another event this month to improve efforts agency-wide, she added.

"This was an intensive effort led by career staff to maximize efficiencies, ensure the best use of resources and improve response time," Bowman said.

EPA critics acknowledge that the FOIA process has always been slow and imperfect, though some say it has degraded even further during Pruitt's tenure. "It's terrible for everyone," Schaeffer said. "When you send your FOIA in you have to really dog it to make sure it goes to the right office and they understand the request. I think there are sort of long-term chronic issues, and I think it's gotten worse."

But environmental groups say EPA is using the backlog as an excuse to withhold current records. They are concerned that senior staffers are vetting the records releases, reviewing the information for politically sensitive details and slowing down the process. They also say EPA is increasingly shooting down their requests as overly broad and asking them for specific search terms, rather than topics or types of communications.

"There's no question in my mind that Scott Pruitt's administrator's office is a serious obstacle to FOIA compliance," said Austin Evers, executive director of the government transparency group American Oversight, which has obtained several months of Pruitt's calendars through court action. "We experience it firsthand every day with straightforward FOIA requests languishing in his office for weeks at a time in a black hole."

Earthjustice is part of a coalition suing for records about EPA's decision to postpone wastewater discharge rules for power plants.

"This is not how government should work," said Thomas Cmar, a staff attorney for Earthjustice. "The intent behind FOIA is that citizens are supposed to have the right to know what their government is up to, and clearly under this administration that's not happening. Even if the process works the way it's supposed to, you don't get your documents until a year after your request."

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, one of the watchdog groups suing Pruitt for allegedly telling staffers not to keep records, has also filed a lawsuit seeking communications about how Pruitt decided, in contrast to scientific consensus, that man-made emissions of carbon dioxide aren't warming the planet.

"Virtually all of our EPA requests are going to litigation because there's not any indication there will be production," PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch said.

Despite criticisms about its lack of transparency, Pruitt's staff has declined to release his schedule ahead of time, contending it would jeopardize his security. In the past few weeks, he has appeared unannounced in Florida to meet with the state Farm Bureau and Chamber of Commerce, then spoke at an event hosted by the conservative Federalist Society at a Walt Disney World resort. He made a surprise trip to New Hampshire, where he met privately with Gov. Chris Sununu. He had planned a trip to Israel but postponed it after media reports detailing his first-class travel, which were triggered by FOIA responses that EPA released during legal battles with the Environmental Integrity Project.

EPA does post Pruitt's past schedule on a public website, but the listings do not include all his meetings and rarely list attendees or the topics discussed. Some of the calendars Pruitt has released under FOIA lawsuits have also proved to be incomplete.

One updated record released to the Environmental Integrity Project in October included a previously undisclosed March 29, 2017, meeting between Pruitt and an executive from WaterGen, an Israeli company that sells technology that generates drinking water from air condensation. That meeting, the updated calendar noted, "came as a request of Sheldon Adelson," the casino billionaire and Republican megadonor.

Other than suing, groups concerned about how Pruitt is running the agency have little leverage in forcing the agency to open its files, because Republicans control the White House and both chambers of Congress.

Alex Guillén contributed to this report.

To view online [click here](#).

[Back](#)

Sheldon Adelson got this company a meeting with Pruitt, now EPA is studying its technology [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 03/28/2018 05:01 AM EDT

EPA has signed a research agreement with an Israeli company that Administrator Scott Pruitt met with last year at the request of GOP mega-donor Sheldon Adelson.

The agency will study one of the company's products, an "atmospheric water generator," essentially a giant dehumidifier that pulls drinkable water out of the air.

The company, Water-Gen, pitches its technology as useful for remote areas that lack proper water infrastructure. The devices could also be useful following large-scale disasters that disrupt clean water supplies. Water-Gen sent four water generators to Texas and Florida following Hurricanes Harvey and Irma last year.

"EPA believes in facilitating cooperative research efforts that will foster innovative solutions to pressing environmental issues, and looks forward to working with other companies and organizations on technology development efforts," Pruitt said in a statement on Tuesday.

Pruitt met on March 29, 2017, with executives from Water-Gen "as a request of Sheldon Adelson," according to copies of his calendar that were released after activists filed a lawsuit. Adelson's relationship with the company is unclear.

In the meeting was Maxim Pasik, Water-Gen's executive chairman. According to Pasik's biography, he is also involved in a company that invests in oil and gas projects and a company that designs "green vertical walls." Also attending was Yehuda Kaploun, president of Water-Gen's U.S. division.

It is not clear whether the executives specifically pitched an R&D agreement at that meeting.

Pasik also had a followup meeting with Pruitt and other officials May 10, according to the administrator's calendar.

EPA did not respond immediately to questions Tuesday night about the meeting or Adelson's involvement. Late-night emails to an Adelson representative and Water-Gen executives were not immediately returned either.

EPA's Office of Research and Development put out the public call for partners to help study atmospheric water generation in September, months after the Pruitt meeting.

The agency signed the research agreement with Water-Gen in January. It was not immediately clear why the agreement was not announced until two months later.

The agreement involves the company lending one of its generators to EPA for at least three months for study at the agency's Cincinnati laboratory. EPA did not pay the company and is not being paid, the agency said.

Known as a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, or CRADA, the agreement lets EPA work with the company on testing the generators and studying potential uses in the U.S. Such agreements are not unusual. EPA said it entered into eight similar agreements during fiscal year 2017, and dozens of less complex agreements to share data or materials.

Water-Gen has worked in recent years to boost its U.S. profile.

Alan Dershowitz, the prominent American attorney and a member of Water-Gen's board of directors, pitched the technology at last year's gathering of American Israel Public Affairs Committee, just two days before Pruitt's meeting.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave the company a nod at this year's AIPAC conference earlier this month, saying the technology "improves on Moses," who is described in two sections of the Torah as producing water from a rock.

The specific device EPA is studying, the GEN-350, is a medium-scale generator that can create 600 liters of clean water, or about 160 gallons, each day. It weighs more than 1,700 pounds and can be transported by truck or SUV to remote locations, according to the company's website.

Water-Gen also makes a smaller version for homes or offices that generates up to eight gallons a day, as well as a large-scale version it pitches for large buildings that can produce over 1,300 gallons daily. All run on electricity.

To view online [click here](#).

[Back](#)

Energy regulator rejects Perry's plan to boost coal [Back](#)

By Darius Dixon and Eric Wolff | 01/08/2018 05:58 PM EDT

Federal energy regulators on Monday rejected Energy Secretary Rick Perry's proposal to prop up struggling coal and nuclear power plants, a major defeat for the former Texas governor and the coal companies that have urged the Trump administration to help them.

Perry had ordered the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to act by this week to guarantee financial payments to the plants that could be facing retirement because of the rise of natural gas and renewable energy, a strategy that many critics said would undermine the power markets the regulator has spent decades building.

But in a 5-0 decision announced Monday, FERC formally axed Perry's proposal and instead ordered the nation's regional grid operators to submit information about their ability to judge "naturally occurring and man-made threats" to their systems within 60 days. That order essentially puts off any action until at least April, if the agency decides to implement any measures at all.

In a statement, Perry said he was pleased his proposal had sparked a national debate, and said he looked forward to the agency's probe into "the marketplace distortions that are putting the long-term resiliency of our electric grid at risk."

But FERC Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur criticized Perry's effort for failing to show the grid was in danger, and merely trying to "freeze yesterday's resources in place indefinitely."

"I believe the Commission should continue to focus its efforts not on slowing the transition from the past but on easing the transition to the future," she wrote.

And green groups were relieved, with the Sierra Club's Mary Anne Hitt, head of its "Beyond Coal" campaign, praising FERC's decision and saying the whole process was "a comically orchestrated ploy by unscrupulous coal and nuclear executives to handicap their competition because they were foolish enough to think that American electricity customers wanted their dirty, expensive power plants when cheaper, cleaner alternatives are available."

Analysts have said the rule proposed by the Energy Department would have its biggest impact on the PJM power grid that stretches across 13 states from the Midwest to the East Coast, and would be a boon to Murray Energy, a coal mining firm run by Bob Murray, a major Trump backer who has met frequently with Perry and Trump.

DOE's proposal was its latest bid to help "baseload" power sources like coal and nuclear that provide around-the-clock electricity but can't adapt quickly to changes in demand like natural gas power plants can. While coal-fired power plants provided half the nation's electricity a decade ago, the surge in natural gas output has made that fuel the industry's favorite for new power plants. Weak demand for power has also put coal at a disadvantage, since the older, less-efficient plants are not as economic as newer natural gas turbines, and renewables like wind power have gotten cheaper.

FirstEnergy Corp, an Ohio-based utility whose struggling power plant subsidiary is a major customer of Murray's, said it was disappointed in FERC's rejection.

"Without timely action, more of these facilities will close prematurely, jeopardizing the ability to provide clean, reliable and affordable power to customers while harming economies across the region," it said in a statement.

Perry has embraced the controversial effort wholeheartedly and top DOE officials pressed their case at public events, conferences with skeptical state utility regulators, and to pro-market conservative groups.

At a House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing in October, Perry dismissed concerns that his plan would cost consumers several billion dollars a year. "What's the cost of freedom? What does it cost to build a system to keep America free?" he said, contending that the power grid's vulnerabilities posed a threat to national security.

In a September letter to FERC calling for it to act quickly, Perry wrote that "the resiliency of the electric grid is threatened by the premature retirements of these fuel-secure traditional baseload resources." And he said FERC's power markets had failed to take into account the need for keeping coal and nuclear power plants on the system.

But in its Tuesday order, FERC said the feedback it received from grid operators on the Perry proposal "do not point to any past or planned generator retirements that may be a threat to grid resilience."

The effort to support coal power plants has been a central theme for Perry in his first year at DOE. Less than two months after being sworn in, he directed agency staff to conduct a review of federal policies affecting the electric grid, and to probe what "regulatory burdens ... are responsible for forcing the premature retirement of baseload power plants."

However, that study, released in August and following pleas from Murray for DOE to use the agency's emergency power to order the firm's coal customers to keep running, delivered a conclusion energy experts had long known: Cheap, abundant natural gas was the primary driver of changes in the U.S. electricity sector.

That DOE report had urged FERC to expedite efforts figure out policies to address state programs that favored technologies such as nuclear power, and to update how power producers are paid in regional electricity markets.

But about a month later, Perry submitted his "grid resiliency pricing rule," a proposal that, if enacted, would cover the costs of power plants that keep a 90-day fuel supply on-site and directed FERC to take "final action" by Dec. 11. McIntyre, who was sworn in in early December, requested an extension through Jan. 10.

Monday's order says in addition to the information requested from the power grid operators, it will accept comments from other parties for 30 days after the grid operators' filing deadline.

Democratic Commissioners Cheryl LaFleur and Rich Glick, as well as Republican Commissioner Neil Chatterjee, each issued separate statements explaining their decision to support the order. Kevin McIntyre, a Republican appointed by President Donald Trump, chairs FERC.

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As Congress stalls, Trump quietly overhauls flood program [Back](#)

By Zachary Warmbrodt | 03/27/2018 02:35 PM EDT

The Trump administration is bypassing Congress and quietly overhauling a key government program designed to protect millions of homeowners from the financial perils of flooding.

Seven months after Hurricane Harvey submerged Houston, the spotlight on the National Flood Insurance Program has dimmed and attempts by lawmakers to update it have stalled. But FEMA is using administrative powers to try to expand flood insurance coverage ahead of future storms and offset the government's tab for destructive disasters to come.

The moves, which rely on assistance from the private insurance industry and the broader financial markets, would address shortcomings that Harvey and other historic hurricanes laid bare. Many homeowners don't buy insurance despite flood risks. Many who do purchase coverage overwhelm the program with claims after the most catastrophic storms, drowning it in billions of dollars of Treasury debt as FEMA tries to fulfill obligations to flood victims.

The changes underway inside the program echo proposals that lawmakers have pitched during the past year but have been unable to enact amid political gridlock over what to do — a growing source of frustration for members of Congress.

"It's broken," said Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.), one of the lawmakers who has been pushing flood insurance legislation without success. "We need to fix it."

With Congress calling for change but sidelined by politics, FEMA officials have stepped into the breach, rolling out reforms before the program's 50th birthday this year.

"On the one side, more people need insurance coverage," Roy Wright, who directs the flood program for FEMA, told POLITICO. "Secondly, there should be more private capital backing that risk."

One change the agency will make this year: loosening restrictions on insurance companies that want to offer their own flood coverage. FEMA is lifting a "non-compete" policy that limited the ability of insurers to sell private policies if they also sold flood insurance on behalf of the government as part of its "Write Your Own" program.

Insurers have been lobbying Congress to implement the change, and they applauded FEMA for taking the initiative. Robert Gordon of the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America said it "would allow companies willing to take on flood insurance risk the ability to do so."

"It's a mutual gain," Wright said of the change that would potentially expose his program to further competition from the private sector. "We need more people selling these products."

In addition, FEMA is taking a step that could relieve some pressure on the cost of government-backed flood insurance by trimming compensation the agency pays the private insurers who sell policies for the NFIP. Like the removal of the non-compete clause, it's an idea lawmakers have been debating over the last year.

At the same time, FEMA is making moves to shield the government from overwhelming payouts triggered by catastrophic hurricanes like Harvey, which forced the program to borrow money from the Treasury to cover funds owed to consumers. The flood insurance program has paid out about \$10 billion in the wake of last year's storms — losses only rivaled by 2005, when Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast.

Well ahead of last year's deadly hurricane season, the program for the first time acquired reinsurance — insurance for insurers — that would provide \$1 billion in coverage after a storm the scale of Harvey. The resulting payout was money the NFIP didn't have to borrow from Treasury.

FEMA expanded its reinsurance purchase this year, and is actively weighing whether to move even deeper into financial markets by tapping other kinds of securities — a decision that's expected to be made in the coming weeks.

The moves are just a few of the potential reforms the administration has started to implement.

Wright, who took the helm of the program three years ago, spent the early part of his tenure focused on addressing a major controversy after Hurricane Sandy that flood insurance policyholders weren't being paid fairly. He touts improvements to the program's quality controls, the way it deploys people on the ground after disasters and how it educates policyholders.

"We had been putting in place administratively a whole series of changes in the post-Sandy world, where clearly there were things in the program that needed to be fixed," he said. "If it's covered, we're going to pay it, and I think that's what people are seeing."

Attention returned to the NFIP last year when a series of powerful hurricanes coincided with the program's Sept. 30 expiration, a deadline set by Congress when it passed reform legislation in 2012. With big questions hanging over the NFIP's future, the administration sent more than a dozen proposals to lawmakers, who had already begun working on bills for the next long-term renewal.

The White House's wish list included removing the restrictions on private flood insurance, broadening FEMA's ability to enter into additional kinds of arrangements with commercial insurers, addressing homes with repetitive flood losses and tackling affordability concerns.

Congress last year took care of one of the biggest asks — canceling \$16 billion of the program's debt, which by late September had hit the limit of the NFIP's \$30 billion borrowing authority. It provided breathing room for the flood program, which pays hundreds of millions of dollars per year in interest to the Treasury.

But beyond forgiving the debt, Congress has been unwilling to enact additional changes. The program has coasted since last year on a series of short-term extensions tied to government funding bills.

That dynamic shifted last week when Congress decoupled the program's expiration from that of government funding, setting up a game of chicken between the House and the Senate that will have to be resolved by the next reauthorization deadline of July 31. The bill, H.R. 1625 (115), also increased funding for flood hazard mapping and pre-disaster mitigation.

The House in November passed a five-year NFIP reauthorization bill, but the Senate has failed to act. The House legislation, H.R. 2874 (115), would remove restrictions on private flood insurance and require the program to cede risk to the financial markets, among other changes.

"I am hopeful that this puts pressure on the Senate to actually work on a bill so that we can restore solvency to the NFIP," said Rep. Sean Duffy (R-Wis.), who negotiated the House legislation. "The Trump administration has taken cues from the House-passed bill and is

implementing provisions on their own as a result of inaction in the Senate. This should send a clear signal to the Senate to act with a sense of urgency for the sake of saving the NFIP."

Negotiations in the Senate are unresolved. The legislation falls under the jurisdiction of the Senate Banking Committee, which has been consumed with moving a landmark bank deregulation bill, [S. 2155 \(115\)](#).

"There should be a way," Senate Banking Chairman [Mike Crapo](#) (R-Idaho) said in early March. "I still hope we can get there."

Separating the flood insurance program's expiration date from government funding alarmed coastal lawmakers — the new deadline falls during hurricane season — but also disappointed some insurance industry lobbyists who are so unhappy with some of the reforms Congress has come up with that they would rather see a straight reauthorization bill without big changes.

For example, insurers who sell flood policies on behalf of the government have resisted proposals that would cut their compensation beyond what FEMA is proposing to do administratively. The firms are also concerned about additional measures proposed by coastal representatives who want to strengthen the hand of consumers in disputes over flood insurance coverage.

"The provisions being kicked around by the Louisiana and New Jersey delegations are so bad that it's not worth having any more negotiations," said one lobbyist who declined to be identified. "Better to kick the can than kick these around."

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This email was sent to jackson.ryan@epa.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/10/2018 6:33:47 PM
To: Vizian, Donna [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cb2401bf8d4f441dbf27f21e122be2c5-Vizian, Donna]
CC: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]; Leopold, Matt [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4e5cdf09a3924dada6d322c6794cc4fa-Leopold, Ma]
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: security threat - comment request

True, I'm just providing information for us.

From: Vizian, Donna
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 2:32 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: APPROVAL: security threat - comment request

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

On Apr 10, 2018, at 2:31 PM, Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov> wrote:

Thank you.

Ex. 6

From: Vizian, Donna
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 2:14 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: security threat - comment request

Ex. 6

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 2:07 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Vizian, Donna <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: APPROVAL: security threat - comment request

Here is the trail.

CNN has also asked us about Mario being walked out of the building to which we have responded that we don't discuss personnel issues. Mario is #2 in DHS.

Ex. 6

Ex. 6

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:44 AM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>
Subject: APPROVAL: security threat - comment request

UPDATED STATEMENT (With RJ's suggestion):

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:39 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: security threat - comment request

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:36 AM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>
Subject: APPROVAL: security threat - comment request

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

BACKGROUND ...

Patrick Sullivan, EPA's Assistant Inspector General For Investigations said there are a number of threats against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "We have at least four times -- four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than we had against Ms. [Gina] McCarthy,' said

Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant inspector general for investigations, referring to Pruitt's predecessor during the Obama administration. He declined to provide the specific numbers of threats against Pruitt. 'They run the variety of direct death threats -- 'I'm going to put a bullet in your brain' -- to implied threats -- 'if you don't classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I'm going to hurt you,'" Sullivan told CNN in an interview. 'Then there's implied threats -- like they say in New York, with the mafia: 'If you come after me and my family, I'll come after you and your family.'" ([CNN](#), 11/28/17)

According to Patrick Sullivan, threats have nearly doubled against Pruitt. "In an interview with E&E News, Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant IG for investigations, said the watchdog opened roughly 70 threat probes in fiscal 2017, including cases and complaints related to EPA facilities and personnel. That surpassed the total of about 45 such probes into threats against EPA from fiscal 2016. Sullivan also said Pruitt has faced more threats than his immediate predecessors, former administrators Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson. 'He has had significantly more threats directed against him. There's absolutely no question about it,' Sullivan said." ([E&E News](#), 01/11/18)

Threats have been made against Pruitt and his family. "The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency said an increase in his security detail is the result of an escalation in threats to him and his family. 'The quantity and the volume -- as well as the type -- of threats are different," Pruitt said in an interview with Bloomberg News. "What's really disappointing to me as it's not just me -- it's family.'" ([Bloomberg](#), 10/26/17)

Pruitt said threats the level of protection is decided by the threat. "The level of protection is dictated by the level of threat," Pruitt said, noting security arrangements are decided by others assessing the situation." ([Bloomberg](#), 10/26/17)

EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said there have been incidents of aggressive behavior against Pruitt. "There were 'incidents where he was being approached -- vulgar language, people were being somewhat aggressive towards him -- and so the special agent in charge provided documentation -- a memo -- to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator.'" ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said it's their job to ensure they can pull Pruitt away from threats. "The agents have to make sure he's in a position where they can protect him," the director of EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett, said in an interview. "If he's surrounded by other members of the public or it's a threat, their job is to push him and pull him away from those threats. That's why it is imperative to keep him away from the individuals so they can keep him safe." ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

EPA's Protective Service Detail says there is a high level of interest against Pruitt. "Perrotta described a "high level of unusual interest in the administrator," calling it the most he's ever seen while safeguarding EPA chiefs." ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

From: Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:32 AM

To: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz
<Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: security threat - comment request

Sen. Whitehouse has sent a letter to Barrass - he said he has an EPA Homeland Security intelligence assessment that he says undercuts the October memo of Mr. Pruitt's security detail justifying the need for first-class travel, etc. as security measures. We're doing a story quickly - if you have any immediate comment I will put it in as quickly as possible; we are also writing through the story today.

Best,
Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office

Ex. 6 cell

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 3/20/2018 7:00:05 PM
To: White, Elizabeth [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f8af641a6306479c9026142ef3b02bd7-White, Eliz]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
Subject: FW: URGENT-Response to Gowdy

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Lyons, Troy
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:29 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Baptist, Erik <Baptist.Erik@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: URGENT-Response to Gowdy

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

By Emily Holden

03/20/2018 11:57 AM EDT

The cost for the security team to accompany EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on a trip to Italy for international meetings in June totaled nearly \$31,000, bringing the price tag for Pruitt's trip to at least \$120,000, according to public records released to the Environmental Integrity Project under a lawsuit.

The additional expenditures include airline fare, lodging and accommodations for Pruitt's security guards, EIP said. EPA would not disclose whether any security staff flew first or business class alongside Pruitt, the group said.

Information obtained by EIP last month showed the four-day trip by Pruitt and his staffers cost about \$53,000 in expenses. Pruitt also spent \$36,000 on a military flight to New York to catch a plane to Rome for meetings ahead of the G-7 Environment Ministerial in Bologna, after attending an infrastructure event with the president in Cincinnati.

Pruitt appeared briefly at the G-7 talks before returning to Washington for a Cabinet meeting.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2018/03/security-for-pruitts-italy-trip-cost-31k-844666>

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Yes, very



Somewhat



Neutral



Not really



Not at all

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This email was sent to cory.preston@epa.gov by: POLITICO, LLC [1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA](https://www.politicopro.com)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 20, 2018, at 11:42 AM, Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov> wrote:

Any update on a final draft?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 19, 2018, at 7:12 PM, Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov> wrote:

I hope. Tomorrow for sure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lyons, Troy

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 7:11 PM

To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>

Cc: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Baptist, Erik <Baptist.Erik@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: URGENT-Response to Gowdy

Will we be able to meet the deadline?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 19, 2018, at 7:02 PM, Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov> wrote:

Ok.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lyons, Troy

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 7:02 PM

To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan
<jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ringel,
Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Baptist, Erik <Baptist.Erik@epa.gov>
Subject: URGENT-Response to Gowdy

Something has changed since the last time (this morning) we spoke w
OGR staff.

Committee staff briefed Gowdy on the status of our response and the
chairman has indicated that he will call Pruitt personally to demand he
turns over this information if he doesn't not have it by 10AM tomorrow.

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 7/3/2018 1:33:35 PM
To: Wooden-Aguilar, Helena [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=991ab84f64be4b6b9dd10a68c81887b0-HAWodd]
Subject: FW: Word Versions of Administrator's Travel Discussion Documents
Attachments: Audit Objective 1 V2 (003).docx; Audit Objectives 2 and 3 Version 3 (003).docx

Correct?

From: Trent, Bobbie
Sent: Tuesday, July 3, 2018 8:49 AM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Conklin, Jeanne <Conklin.Jeanne@epa.gov>; Jones-Peeler, Meshell <Jones-Peeler.Meshell@epa.gov>; Brookshire, Malena <Brookshire.Malena@epa.gov>; Anthony, Sherri <Anthony.Sherri@epa.gov>
Subject: Word Versions of Administrator's Travel Discussion Documents

Good Morning Mr. Jackson:

Please find attached, the word versions of the Discussion Documents, please let me know if you need any further assistance, thank you.

Bob Trent
OCFO/OC/PTAD/MIAB
202-566-0983

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/5/2018 11:04:24 PM
To: Daniell, Kelsi [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cd867173479344b3bda202b3004ff830-Daniell, Ke]
Attachments: Pruitt coverage highlights updated.docx

Do you have an opportunity or means to print this for SP for his flight back?

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6

NATIONAL ...

Trump on Air Force One

On Pruitt: "I think he's done a fantastic job. I think he's done an incredible job. He's been very courageous. It hasn't been easy, but I think he's done a fantastic job."

Is he bothered by Pruitt reports? "I have to look at them. ... I'll make that determination. But he's a good man, he's done a terrific job. But I'll take a look at it."

More: "I think Scott has done a fantastic job. I think he's a fantastic person. You know, I just left coal and energy country. They love Scott Pruitt. They feel very strongly about Scott Pruitt. And they love Scott Pruitt."

Rush Limbaugh (from Transcript at the top of the show): Speaking of under attack, have you noticed how every political gun the Democrats and the media have is all of a sudden focused on Scott Pruitt at the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency? You know, there's an old saying — and you military people will, of course, nod your heads at this. "When you're taking a lot of flak, you must be over the target." Well, I think Scott Pruitt is over the target. Let me tell you what Scott Pruitt's doing. Scott Pruitt is himself unraveling a whole lot of regulations that Obama's EPA implemented.

Now, the former administrator of the EPA, Gina somebody — can't remember her last name — Obama put her in office, and she is out there complaining about Pruitt because Pruitt is specifically unraveling things that she and she alone did. And she's complaining that administrators and bureaucrats can't just go in willy-nilly and strike out things they don't like. It's exactly what she did though.

When she was chairman of the EPA she started writing regulations left and right without even the agreement of the whole agency. Not that she needed it, 'cause they were all like-minded leftists. But none of it had to go through Congress. None of it passed as legislation must. And so now Scott Pruitt, they're focusing on this guy, condos that he wants to buy, furniture he wanted to rent, how he travels privately, running around on jets. They are launching everything they've got at this guy.

The EPA is one of these federal bureaucracies that the left claims permanent ownership of. And these bureaucracies — they happen to be where the deep state — I love that term primary because the left hates it — but the bureaucracies are where the deep state lives. And these people have been writing punitive anti-capital, anti-liberty regulations for who knows how long, all predicated on a bunch of faulty premises, such as the United States is destroying the planet, such as the United States is destroying the world, such as the United States is the leading polluter of the world.

None of these things are true, of course, but that's their worldview. And one thing that Pruitt's doing that's got them just hog-tied, he's relaxing all of these mileage restrictions that the left has placed on automobiles and engines and so forth. And he's basically just taking a knife and whacking things from the EPA that were implemented during the eight years of Obama.

And he has become, outside of Trump, the single biggest target of the American left. Let's go to the audio sound bites...

Let me ask a question. You know, they're going after Pruitt, how come Strzok and Lisa Page haven't been canned? How come they are still getting every benefit, every perk and their salaries even though they've been demoted and reassigned, why are they still even working there? See, this is how we lose focus of this stuff.

Oh, so now all of a sudden we're gonna be concerned with how much money federal employees get? I thought we didn't want to do government shutdowns because federal employees would miss Thanksgiving and Christmas turkeys and it just wouldn't be fair. Anyway, Pruitt is claiming he reversed these excessive pay raises when he found out they happened.

Anyway, Pruitt is claiming he reversed these excessive pay raises when he found out they had happened. But this has nothing to do with what Pruitt is doing that has them all ticked off. So they're going for these, you know, little knickyknack things here that — do you think people even kept track of what federal employees were making during the Obama administration, and if somebody had gotten a raise would anybody have been upset about it? No, because federal government employees were constantly being applauded and supported and so forth.

But this is just a good illustration of they can't — didn't even go after Pruitt on the substance of what he's doing other than to say he can't do it. But all he's doing is utilizing the same, what do you call it, procedures, that Obama's EPA director did, and it's funny to listen to her and read her being all just jacked up about this claiming, "You can't go in and do this willy-nilly and arbitrarily," which is exactly what she herself did. ...

I really hope this guy does not get sidetracked. You know, it's tough to hold up under this kind of assault. And now this is coming. That's Fox News. That's Ed Henry. And you just hope that he can hang on. You don't know until you see these people under fire and man is he under fire. He's under fire for excessive luxurious travel arrangements and accommodations.

Of course, they don't tell you about the exorbitant luxurious expenditures in the EPA under Obama and his administrator Gina McCarthy. In 2016, for example, Gina McCarthy spent 68 grand going to Ghana, 45 grand going to Peru, \$74,000 on a trip to Tokyo. In 2015, \$41,000 traveling to Paris, \$90,000 going to Dubai, \$67,000 to Tokyo again, \$56,000 to Italy. And of course Lisa Jackson, who was the EPA director for Obama before Gina McCarthy, who's now the environmental vice president at Apple, she was just as over the top in her expenditures.

So Pruitt's not doing anything that hasn't been done. I'm not saying that's an excuse to continue it. I'm saying this is a bogus series of charges. He's being singled out for doing something that has always been done because that's how they view the best way to go get the guy and discredit him, rather than to try to frighten people about what he's doing with the regulatory side of things. Let me take a brief time-out. I just hope Scott Pruitt hangs in, bottom line.

Washington Examiner: **Rush Limbaugh, Ted Cruz back Scott Pruitt, 'Single Biggest Target of Left.'** Conservatives, led by top talker Rush Limbaugh and Sen. Ted Cruz, went on offense Thursday for embattled EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, charging that he is being targeted by liberals because he is pulling back the overreach of Obama-era environmental rules. "You know there's an old saying," said Limbaugh, opening his daily three hour show. "When you're taking a lot of flak, you must be over the target. Well I think Scott Pruitt is over the target," he said. "He's basically just taking a knife and whacking things from the EPA that were implemented during the eight years of Obama and he has become, outside of Trump, the single biggest target of the left," added Limbaugh. Limbaugh's support was full throated. He said that the liberal "deep state" was leading the attack. "Scott Pruitt is himself unraveling a whole lot of regulations that Obama's EPA implemented," said the top conservative radio host. Other conservatives, notably Tea Party Patriots head Jenny Beth Martin, and several major groups, including Heritage Action, the Club for Growth, and Americans for Prosperity have also backed Pruitt this week, especially after he stalled the Obama plan to dramatically raise car gas mileage.

Breitbart: Limbaugh: Attacks on EPA's Pruitt 'A Bogus Series of Charges.' Thursday on his nationally syndicated radio show, conservative talker Rush Limbaugh questioned the motives of the criticisms aimed at EPA Director Scott Pruitt. Limbaugh explained how Pruitt's alleged indiscretions were nothing out of the ordinary and that this appeared to be motivated by those opposed to his rollback of Obama-era environmental regulations.

The Federalist: Scott Pruitt Is Trump's Biggest Asset. That's Why the Left Wants Him Gone. "After Donald Trump, the individual in DC with the biggest target on his back is Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt. When he was attorney general of Oklahoma, he sued the EPA more than a dozen times to get the powerful regulatory agency to stay within its legal authority. His nomination was deeply concerning to radical environmentalists inside and outside the media. As a result, he and his team have been under a microscope since even before his confirmation in early 2017. Well-funded environmental groups, many with former EPA staffers, deluge the agency with FOIA requests to catch someone in a scandal. Unlike how they covered Obama-era EPA administrators, media outlets constantly request information about everything Pruitt does, from his schedule to his travel particulars. Whipped-up partisans have made unprecedented numbers of death threats against him and his family. Powerful liberals opine against him."

CNN (Scott Jennings): Liberals Don't Really Care About Pruitt's Ethics. What lurks beneath, though, is not a concern for ethics or thrifty travel budgets (they might want to check EPA directors under Obama before they tee off on travel), but rather adherence to liberal environmental policy that borders on religious conviction. Many on the left love government regulations and hate anyone who tears them down, as Pruitt has successfully done at EPA. Having failed to incite a national panic last week over the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, the Trump haters have moved on this week to destroying Pruitt. There's a good chance they will fail at this, too. Why? Losing Pruitt would rob the Trump administration of an effective operator who has done more than most to make good on the President's campaign promises. Pruitt has been effective. Unlike David Shulkin, who was recently jettisoned from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Pruitt has actually enacted President Trump's agenda. He's a recognized conservative warrior, with the Washington Post reporting that "allies praise Pruitt for returning more power to individual states while scaling back what they see as the previous administration's regulatory excesses." Pruitt might be the most successful Trump cabinet member, delivering win after win to President Trump. ... Pruitt is becoming a martyr. The people at the controls of the liberal outrage machine don't care about rent; they are just hopping mad that he's dismantling Obama's anti-business regulatory regime. As my friend Josh Holmes, a former chief of staff to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, tweeted: "Ironically, the media blood-lusting for Scott Pruitt is insulating him a bit by gradually turning him into a conservative cause. Going to be tougher than they think to run him out over cheap rent." The louder the extreme left screams, the more Trump will consider it music to his ears.

Red State: Why are people who are supposed to be conservative trying to torpedo Scott Pruitt? "Pruitt is a guy we should all be lining up to defend. Under Pruitt, the EPA accepted responsibility for the disastrous spill it created at the Gold King mine in Colorado. And he committed substantial resources to the clean-up. He's prioritized the clean-up of Super Fund sites that have lingered for decades. He has taken fire and sword to the onerous regulatory strait jacket the Obama administration tried to impose on the US economy. Pruitt had begun the repeal of Obama's Clean Power Plan coal regs and the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. Under Pruitt, an executive order was issued to rescind the EPA's overreaching Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule that often allowed the EPA to claim jurisdiction over literal mudholes."

The Hill: EPA Chief Scott Pruitt Gets Results — That's Why He's A Target Of The Left. "President Donald Trump is standing by his embattled Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt, according to reports. Let's be clear, that is good thing for both Trump and the country. Pruitt is one of the shining stars of the Trump administration, and no one who supports the president's "Make America Great Again" agenda should want him replaced...Yet some hope that by attacking Pruitt on fake ethics charges, the media-created scandal will cause the Trump White House to either foolishly force Pruitt out or cause him to throw up his hands in disgust and resign. This would be a disaster for President Trump and all of us who care about his success."

The Resurgent: Firing Scott Pruitt Will Only Embolden the Left. “Scott Pruitt is being targeted because he is effective. The President needs to stand behind Pruitt. It is an open secret in Washington that a leftwing opposition research firm has hired investigators to dig into Trump Administration officials. It is no coincidence that many of the accusations, like with former Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price, involve private air travel and the like. It is what these investigators focus on to give the media easy stories.”

The Daily Signal: 3 Reasons the Left Hates Scott Pruitt. “From the Clean Power Plan, which was all about Obama’s climate agenda and which had nothing to do with creating clean air (we already have laws about that), to the Waters of the United States regulation which could turn a puddle in your front yard into environmentally-protected swamp land—Pruitt has been rolling back many of the regulations put in place by Obama’s overzealous, power-grabbing, and arguably unconstitutional EPA.”

The Washington Times: President Trump should stand by his man at EPA; Scott Pruitt deserves no less. “EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has been the most effective cabinet secretary President Trump has had during his 14-month presidency. He has loyally carried out the president’s aggressive agenda against out-of-control federal regulations that stifle economic growth and kill American jobs. Pruitt has faithfully fulfilled Trump’s campaign promises by rolling back Obama-era environmental overreach and halting most new regulations that were in the pipeline when he inherited the bloated agency from his predecessor, Gina McCarthy. Pruitt has spearheaded Trump’s agenda with impactful moves like pulling out of the Paris climate accords, reforming CAFE standards and rolling back the obtrusive way the EPA administered the Clean Water Act. As the man willing to attack these sacred cows of the Left Pruitt has been rewarded with legitimate and specific death threats against himself and his family.”

The Washington Examiner: While media fixate on Scott Pruitt’s living arrangements, his EPA reforms are praiseworthy. “Pruitt’s efforts to alleviate the regulatory burden on average Americans while working to restore sound scientific practices within the EPA arguably rank among the Trump administration’s most significant policy achievements. EPA officials quoted in the press have said Pruitt’s living arrangements did not violate ethics rules. Even if there is no technical violation, appearances matter in Washington. That’s especially true for someone who has been remarkably effective up until now in advancing the Trump administration’s efforts to free the economy from centralized planning in Washington.”

The Daily Signal: Exclusive: EPA Chief Scott Pruitt Says Media Reports About Him Don’t Tell True Story. “‘We had a memo and a statement from career ethics officials here that have actually reviewed the lease, that actually reviewed comps—comparables of similar units,’ Pruitt, the former attorney general of Oklahoma, told The Daily Signal. ‘And I think what’s missed in this: I didn’t rent a unit,’ Pruitt said. ‘I didn’t rent an apartment. This was an Airbnb-type situation where I rented literally one room that was used in a temporary status, until I found more permanent residence.’”

USA Today: With President Trump in his corner, Scott Pruitt’s job at EPA looks safe – for now. “‘Why go and replace someone who’s doing a very good job (carrying out) the president’s agenda,’ said Jason Miller, a former senior communicators adviser to the Trump campaign and transition team. ‘It hasn’t gone unnoticed that Administrator Pruitt is accomplishing a lot for the president and in a much quicker time period than anyone thought possible.’”

The Daily Caller: Conservative Pundits Rally to EPA’s Scott Pruitt as Dems Call for His Head. “Conservative allies have come to the aid of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt as lawmakers, environmental activists and pundits call for his resignation... Wall Street Journal columnist Kimberley Strassel called the wave of anti-Pruitt stories “absurd,” pointing out that Obama EPA officials spent more on travel and that agency ethics officials approved of the administrator’s temporary living arrangement in the condo.”

The Washington Examiner: Embattled Scott Pruitt Rips ‘Toxic’ Washington, Says Critics ‘Will Resort To Anything’ To Stop Trump Agenda. “EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on Tuesday forcefully pushed back against criticism that he won a short-term sweetheart rental deal from a lobbyist friend, claiming it’s just the latest attempt by his and the president’s attackers to ‘resort to anything’ to stop their agenda. ‘There are people that have long in this town done business a


different way and this agency has been the poster child of it. And so do I think that because we are leading on this agenda that there are some who want to keep that from happening? Absolutely. And do I think that they will resort to anything to achieve that? Yes,' he said in an interview with Secrets. 'It's toxic here in that regard,' said Pruitt, one of a handful of President's Trump's agency heads who is scoring wins on his pro-jobs, anti-regulatory campaign. Pruitt, speaking confidently about his future, said that critics who have focused on his \$50 a night room rental in an Airbnb-style townhouse and his air travel are really out to stop the administration's anti-regulatory effort that has saved \$8 billion overall and \$1 billion in reduced Environmental Protection Agency regulations."


CNN: EPA's Pruitt Fulfilling Trump's Anti-Regulatory Agenda. "Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt is drawing scrutiny for his housing situation and travel practices, but in his role as the nation's top environmental official, he's a reliable administration foot soldier, making good on President Donald Trump's campaign promises for fewer environmental regulations and to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement. Since he was confirmed to the job last February, Pruitt has taken an aggressive approach to rolling back Obama-era regulations, most recently this week's announcement that he would revise fuel efficiency rules designed to cut back on emissions of greenhouse gases. "This is another step in the President's regulatory agenda, de-regulatory agenda ... a billion dollars in savings with respect to over 22 significant regulatory actions that we've been involved in here at the agency," Pruitt said at EPA headquarters Tuesday."

E&E News: Conservatives Rally Behind Pruitt. "Conservatives are supporting U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt as he struggles with reports of premium travel, high-price security and ties to lobbyists. Myron Ebell, who led President Trump's EPA transition team, told E&E News that Pruitt has been consequential in achieving the president's goals. Pruitt has proposed repealing several Obama-era regulations, winning plaudits from free-market and business groups that have long battled with EPA. "We're getting the word out that Administrator Pruitt is doing a good job in implementing the president's agenda and Administrator Pruitt is a key part of that agenda," Ebell said. "We're trying to keep the free-market groups and the conservative groups together in support of the agenda." Ebell, director of the Competitive Enterprise Institute's Center for Energy and Environment, talked to E&E News on his way to EPA headquarters today to attend Pruitt's announcement of the rollback of Obama-era auto fuel efficiency standards. Ebell declined to speculate whether Pruitt's job is in jeopardy."

Hot Air: Pruitt talks streamlining the agency, RFS, and "the swamp." Administrator Pruitt does not admit to being a cryptozoological creature, nor can he confirm that he will be starring as a villain in an upcoming Marvel superhero movie. There's more about the EPA's move to only accept real science rather than secret science in their decision-making process as well as some hints at new regulatory moves on the horizon.



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POLITICS

Working With Scott Pruitt

April 4, 2018 5:09 AM ET
Heard on Morning Edition

Political pressure is building on Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt. Lawyer David Rivkin worked with Pruitt and talks with NPR's David Greene.

The Lid: Media Campaign Against EPA's Scott Pruitt Orchestrated By Obama & Clinton Cronies. It's been obvious for some time that there is a concerted effort underway to take out Donald Trump's EPA Director, Scott Pruitt. ... That's what is going after Scott Pruitt. Money, from green-energy cronies, that chased Obama and Hillary around for the last 10 years, and that has been involved in both lobbying and gaining often non-competed government grants and subsidies for hundreds of millions of dollars, especially during the Obama administration. The irony of that money being used to accuse Scott Pruitt of cronyism, for renting a room in Washington for \$50 a night, can hardly be overstated. But the political tendentiousness of the anti-Pruitt campaign is equally egregious. The EIP is the extreme opposite of a public interest group. It's an "environmental-lobby gravy-train" group, with a determination to prevent Trump from doing what his voters elected him to do, by whatever means necessary.

Daily Caller: Pruitt Allies Warn Trump – Fire Him and Your Agenda Comes to a Grinding Halt. Allies of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt have a stark message for President Donald Trump: Remove Pruitt and your agenda will come to a grinding halt, emboldening your opponents. But conservatives are rallying to Pruitt's defense, pointing out that, should he leave EPA, Trump's deregulatory agenda would grind to a halt — playing into the hands of anti-Trumpers. "That is really what would happen if Pruitt was asked to leave," Tom Pyle, president of the American Energy Alliance, told The Daily Caller News Foundation. Pyle headed Trump's Energy Department transition team in 2016. "It would take months for the Senate to confirm somebody, and whoever they confirm would be more like Christine Todd Whitman than Pruitt," said Pyle, referring to the former New Jersey governor and EPA chief under President George W. Bush. "It'd be like removing your star wide receiver in the middle of the game. It would slow down the process and make it harder for the administration to achieve their objectives," Pyle said. Pruitt has aggressively rolled back Obama administration EPA regulations, including the Clean Power Plan and Waters of the U.S. rule. EPA's year-in-review report claimed up to \$1 billion in regulations were repealed in Pruitt's first year. Conservative pundits also came to Pruitt's defense, pointing out the administrator's success in rolling back regulations and reforming EPA science policies make him a prime target for Democrats.

Reuters: Trump Says Still Has Confidence in Environmental Agency Head Pruitt. President Donald Trump on Thursday indicated he continued to back Environmental Protection Agency head Scott Pruitt, who is under fire for paying low rent on a condo owned by a lobbyist. When asked if he still has confidence in Pruitt, Trump, who was traveling to West Virginia, said, "I do."

Washington Post: The Latest: Trump Professes Faith in Embattled EPA Chief. President Donald Trump says he has faith in the embattled chief of the Environmental Protection Agency. Trump was about to board Air Force One Thursday when he was asked if he still has confidence in Scott Pruitt. The president responded: "I do."

Washington Times: EPA's Scott Pruitt Says Progress on Trump Agenda at "Bastion of Liberalism" Behind Attacks. Embattled Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt fired back at critics Wednesday and said controversies over his travel and living accommodations are being used as weapons to distract from the progress he has made implementing President Trump's agenda. "I think it's a focus of distraction. I think it's noise. It's been noisy and

competitive since Day One, because this agency has been a bastion of liberalism since Day One,” Mr. Pruitt told the “Mack On Politics” podcast at The Washington Times. “As we are making progress there and also reducing the regulatory burden, it is infuriating to those that have dominated and controlled the agency for years,” he said.

Washington Examiner: Conservative Senators Race to EPA Chief Scott Pruitt’s Defense. Conservative senators on Thursday raced to defend embattled EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who is being scrutinized by the White House for arranging a controversial condo rental agreement with the wife of an energy lobbyist. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., credited Pruitt for his conservative credentials, and his efforts at unwinding environmental regulations imposed by prior administrations. ... Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, also gave support to Pruitt Thursday, and blamed media coverage for Pruitt’s problems. ... Sen. James M. Inhofe, R-Okla., a longtime Pruitt supporter from his home state, is also standing by him.

Bloomberg: Army of Conservative Allies Rallying to Save Embattled EPA Chief. CEOs are calling President Donald Trump to argue against firing the man they see as a champion of deregulation. Senators are warning that getting an equally business-friendly replacement confirmed won’t be easy. And aides have been booking him for a series of conservative-media appearances. “We are very much in support of him and making it known,” said Tom Pyle, who heads the American Energy Alliance, an influential free-market advocacy group. “Obviously, he is an ideal administrator.” ... Pruitt has emerged as the limited-government star of the Cabinet, methodically working to dismantle environmental restrictions. No Senate-confirmable replacement would work as hard and be as effective an advocate for the president’s policy agenda, said Mike McKenna, a Republican energy strategist. “Because you can’t get anyone else through the Senate, you will wind up with the modern-day equivalent of Christine Todd Whitman, who will spend every second of every day trying to obstruct the president’s agenda,” McKenna said, referring to a former New Jersey governor and moderate Republican who led the EPA under President George W. Bush. ... David Rivkin, a Washington lawyer, is among the EPA chief’s most ardent defenders. “I’ve known him for a number of years and worked with him closely,” said Rivkin, a partner at the law firm Baker Hostetler LLP who represented the Oklahoma attorney general’s office when Pruitt held that post. Rivkin described Pruitt as a man with an exceptional work ethic and strong faith, and said the criticism directed at him is “driven by hostility toward his agenda.” “He is carrying out the president’s policy agenda within the bounds of the law,” Rivkin said in an interview, adding that the job Pruitt has done gives him “tremendous strength and staying power.” No one else could do it as successfully, Rivkin said.

Politico: Pruitt and Allies Launch Campaign to Save His Job. ... [T]he coverage is not distracting the EPA chief from his policy wins for the president. “It’s not just been a recent phenomenon we have received some negative press. It’s a little more piled on now than in the past,” the Pruitt defender said. “We’ve taken 24 deregulatory actions over his last 14-15 months here. I think we’re leading the Cabinet on deregulatory actions.” “This is a man who is absolutely unassuming and austere in his personal habits,” Rivkin told NPR. He also dismissed concerns about Pruitt’s first-class travel. “The notion that flying these days whether in coach or first class is somehow pleasant, that you do it for personal enjoyment, is just silly,” he said. GOP donor Dan Eberhart, the CEO of oilfield services company Canary, said Pruitt’s housing arrangements “seem misguided,” but added he would like to see the EPA chief stick around because he’s been a “tireless advocate” of Trump’s agenda. ... Josiah Neeley, energy policy director for the free market R Street Institute, called Pruitt “one of the more effective members in the Trump administration,” saying that stories about Pruitt don’t seem to have distracted from policy work at EPA. “We try and stay out of the personality stuff pretty across the board,” Neeley said. “I think that that is a very good policy these days.” Defenders also argue that Pruitt’s bad headlines make for Beltway fodder but have little impact in the rest of the country.

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING...

Steve Milloy: Trump and the US Need Scott Pruitt to Stay at EPA. Pruitt has been the most effective appointee in implementing the Trump agenda. If Pruitt is forced out of his job because of charges he behaved unethically, America will suffer. ... Industries long aggrieved by the pre-Trump EPA, especially during the Obama years, now have an EPA administrator eager to listen to their side of the story. ... There is much more EPA reform to come from Pruitt, as he is just hitting his stride. Now is not the time to change horses. First, President Trump would have a hard time finding an EPA chief as competent and committed as Pruitt. Next, even if the president did, Senate Democrats would go all out to

block confirmation. President Trump should ignore the partisan attacks over trivialities. Let's keep our eyes on the ball of EPA reform and restraint. Our national interest demands it. Just let Pruitt do it.

Daily Torch: If environmental radicals are in full panic mode over Scott Pruitt at EPA, that means he is doing a good job. "The left has spent over a decade trying to expand the influence and oversight of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but the American people voted against this influence when they elected President Trump to prioritize economic advancement. Trump followed through on this promise by appointing Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator. The left is now trying everything to destroy his position and defame his record, but Pruitt must power through, his job is far too important...Scott Pruitt has done his job, and he has done it well. All the left's continued attacks prove is that it is willing to dismiss facts in favor of pushing an agenda. Pruitt must continue charting the EPA's path toward a balance between environmental concerns and economic development and security, rather than be distracted by the baseless attacks from political opponents, and President Trump needs to stand behind this stalwart of his administration, who is big part of what is needed to make America great again."

Freedom Works: Continues to support the leadership of Administrator Scott Pruitt. "Adam Brandon: 'Scott Pruitt has worked hard to return the EPA to its core mission: protecting the environment as directed by Congress; instead of the rogue assault on the rule of law, freedom, and the economy that we saw in the prior administration.' Ken Cuccinelli: 'Unlike his predecessors, EPA Administrator Pruitt has core environmental accomplishments to his credit: like actually making progress on the long-dormant superfund sites and attacking the problem of lead in drinking water. These are basic responsibilities for the EPA, yet they were abject failures prior to Pruitt's arrival.'"

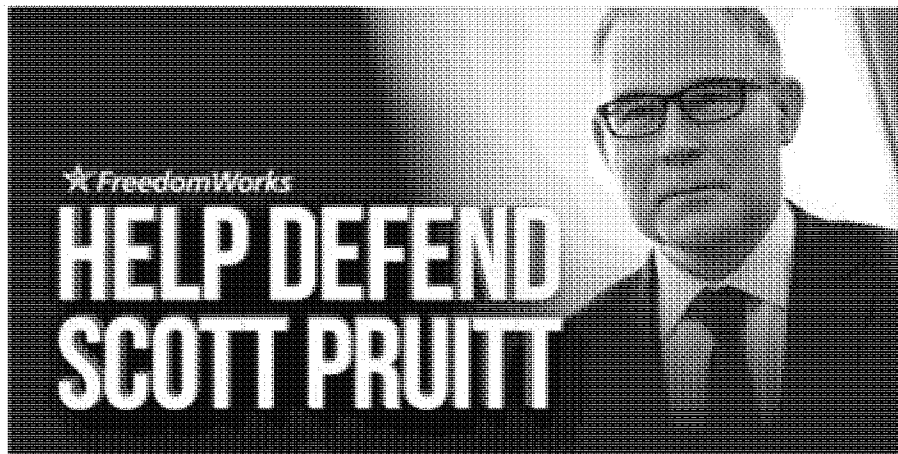


FreedomWorks

28 mins · 🌐

Conservative EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has rogue environmentalist bureaucrats on the run, but the radical left is running a massive smear campaign to try and force him to quit!

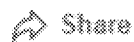
Call President Trump at 202-849-7922 right now. Tell him you support Scott Pruitt at the EPA today!



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James Delingpole (Breitbart): Scott Pruitt is Doing Great. Trump Cannot Afford to Let the Green Blob Claim His Scalp.

The knives are out for Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt. It's so blatant that even liberals have noticed. Pruitt is paying a terrible price for the crime of being the most effective player in Trump's administration. And, of course, for daring to take on the most powerful vested interest in the swamp – the Green Blob, aka the Climate Industrial Complex. ... Pruitt's critics might sound less partisan, more credible if his predecessors hadn't been about a thousand times more venal, profligate and dishonest. ... Ever since it was founded by Richard Nixon, the EPA has acted primarily as one of the left's bulwarks against free markets, liberty and industrial progress. ... The knives are out for

Pruitt because he has done such a devastatingly effective job. Trump cannot afford to let the swamp claim his best player's scalp.

Rick Santorum on CNN New Day: "I'm comfortable with the job he's doing. I think he's doing a great job as EPA Administrator. He's basically stopped all of the tremendous overreach that the Obama administration put in place. ... Scott Pruitt has been under enormous threats. He's been under more threats than any other person in the administration other than the President himself. There are security concerns ... it's a reaction to the fact that this man is doing a job that's controversial but he's doing a great job and getting a lot of flack for it."



The Hill (Opinion): Scott Pruitt Does His Part to Help Donald Trump Drain the Swamp. "And among members of the White House Cabinet, no agency head has done more to follow the president's lead in draining the swamp than Scott Pruitt, who leads the Environmental Protection Agency. Make no mistake, that's why the left and its allies in the media are working overtime to smear him. They know he's being effective — perhaps the most effective member of Trump's Cabinet when it comes to actually translating rhetoric into reality — and they know they cannot stop him, so in typical swamp fashion, they are intent on destroying him. ... At the EPA, one of the very worst of the alphabet soup bureaucratic fiefdoms that make up the swamp, Pruitt took charge and immediately focused on returning the agency to its stated goals of improving air quality, shoring up our water infrastructure, and cleaning up contaminated areas. This was a huge change after the Obama administration, which used the EPA to issue volumes of job-killing regulations to mollify environmental extremists. Among its most egregious efforts, it utilized "sue and settle" practices to abuse legal limits on rulemaking and reward ideological allies. In his first year in charge of the EPA, Pruitt finalized more than 20 deregulatory actions, saving taxpayers more than \$1 billion in regulatory costs. He also ended the "sue and settle" practices. The agency is rescinding and replacing the ridiculous and onerous "Waters of the United States" rule, and acting on President Trump's order to review and overturn the Obama administration's so-called "Clean Power Plan." Delivering these results has put a "yuge" target on Pruitt's back. ... In spite of his coming under attack from the radical left and their allies in the liberal media, Pruitt is making real progress for the American people at an agency that the left believes it alone should run and control. President Trump unified a governing coalition behind the promise of draining the swamp in Washington, and of all his Cabinet members, Scott Pruitt has done the most to help him advance the cause." — Jenny Beth Martin (Chairman of Tea Party Patriots Citizens Fund)

Andy Surabian in Business Insider: Scott Pruitt's real sin is that he's a total killer for Trump's agenda — and it's why the media is trying to destroy him. Pruitt's biggest problem is not his alleged misdeeds. It's his effectiveness and determination at rolling back the job-killing, regulatory bonanza of the Obama years. The liberal media is now intentionally training its ire on Pruitt, because unlike some of the president's former Cabinet officials who have recently been forced out, Pruitt is actually effectively prosecuting the president's "America First" agenda. When it comes to economy-strangling regulations, Pruitt is, as President Donald Trump likes to say, "a total killer." He has no peer in Trump's Cabinet in terms of his ability to cut back red tape. From day one, he began dismantling Barack Obama's legacy with startling effectiveness and cunning. And for this, radical environmentalists and other left-wingers despise him. In

Trump's efforts to roll back regulations, "Pruitt has proved to be one of his most effective lieutenants," The New York Times wrote. Pruitt has initiated rollbacks of more than two-dozen unnecessary and economy-strangling environmental regulations. ... But that's not the point of this exercise for the media: To destroy Scott Pruitt. They can't allow him to roll back Obama's entire left-wing legacy at the EPA without putting up a fight. Pruitt, like Trump, Clarence Thomas, and countless others before him, represents an ideological threat to the institutional left and their allies in the mainstream media. To the Fake News Industrial Complex, that justifies trumping up baseless allegations in an attempt to take him out. They're doing everything they can to force the President's hand to get rid of Pruitt, because they know just how effective he is in his role. Pruitt has served his boss well — just a little too well for his liberal critics. And it's for that very reason why he's worth defending and keeping atop the EPA, so he can continue to be a total anti-regulatory killer, for years to come.

Gov. Phil Bryant on Super Talk Mississippi: Q: deregulating a lot of stuff that impacts us here in Mississippi. "Oh absolutely. Just think of the Waters of the U.S.A. where EPA said I'm going to come on your little farm field, you little place in [town in MS], and you gotta pond and we're going to regulate it to the federal government. And if its not to the specifications that we believe it should be, we're going to fine you hundreds of thousands of dollars. Just that alone — Scott Pruitt has done a remarkable job. They've cut 24, there's 24 deregulations that have taken place that's saved business and agriculture over a billion dollars. There's 42 more there. The radical environmentalists and Democrats are attacking Scott Pruitt because he's done such a remarkable job. He did what he said he was going to do. He's carrying out the desires of Donald Trump Administration to do away with regulation, protect air, water and land while not being radical about it."

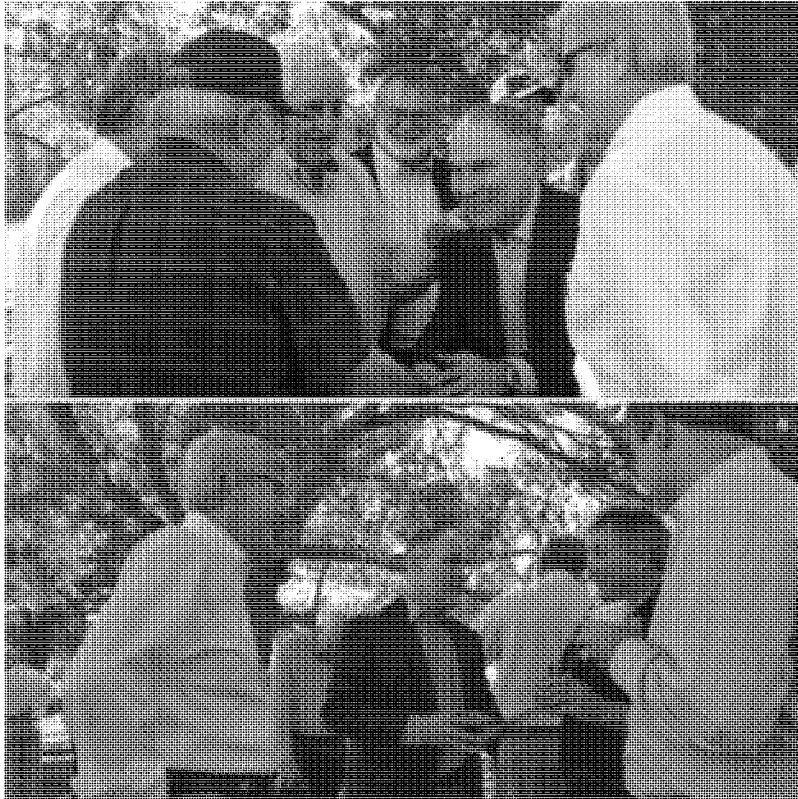


Phil Bryant added 2 new photos.

...

41 mins · 🌐

It's shameful of the liberal media to attack my friend U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Scott came to Jackson last fall to meet with Mississippi farmers and agriculture leaders. He has done a great job protecting the environment while removing burdensome and unnecessary regulations.



Dick Morris (former advisor to President Clinton) in Western Journal: Stop the Crucifixion of Scott Pruitt. The single most effective member of President Donald Trump's cabinet is EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. A strong conservative, he has set out to dismember, systematically, the edifice of new rules and regulations adopted under the Obama administration. By freeing business of these regulations — and relieving fears of future new regs — Pruitt has helped to create tens of thousands of new jobs, with the promise of even more. Nowhere has Trump's promise to free business from constraints on its growth been more consistently kept than at the EPA. ... Pruitt's achievements are far reaching and very important. That's why the left wants to bring him down. He led the fight to persuade Trump to withdraw from the Paris climate accords, in part because they did nothing to rein in the largest emitter of carbons — China — while imposing drastic restrictions on its competitors in the U.S. and Europe. ... Pruitt is only loyally following the president's lead and advancing his policies with fidelity and dispatch. Firing Pruitt would set the cause of deregulation back substantially and would be a blow to the president's administration and his agenda. Don't let the greens crucify Scott Pruitt!

Pascagoula, MS Mayor Dane Maxwell Press Release: Mayor Dane Maxwell Grateful for EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's Leadership. "The City of Pascagoula thanks EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt for his strong leadership and dedicated partnership to clean up the Mississippi Phosphates site. Since Scott Pruitt has been at the helm, the EPA has been great to work with. He has built a team that is responsive and results-driven. Today, the EPA measures its success by how many environmental problems it solves, which has not always been the case with previous administrations. It is amazing how much Scott Pruitt has turned around the EPA in less than 15 months. We're grateful he's there."

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)



Senator Rand Paul ● @RandPaul · 16m

.@EPAScottPruitt is likely the bravest and most conservative member of Trump's cabinet. We need him to help @realDonaldTrump drain the regulatory swamp.

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)



Ted Cruz ● @tedcruz · 3m

This is compelling. Why do Obama and his media cronies want so badly to drive @EPAScottPruitt out of office? @realDonaldTrump is too cagey to be duped and bullied by the Obama groupies.



Media Campaign Against EPA's Scott Pruitt Orchestrated By Obama ...

It's been obvious for some time that there is a concerted effort underway to take out Donald Trump's EPA Director, Scott Pruitt.

[kiblog.com](#)

Both retweet by Club for Growth

Steve Forbes (Chairman & EIC Forbes Media)



Steve Forbes ● @SteveForbesCEO · Apr 3

.@EPAScottPruitt is actively working to balance environmental protection with job growth and economic recovery.

Governor Matt Bevin (R-KY)



Governor Matt Bevin ●
@GovMattBevin

Following



(1/3) Let me get this straight

The media is attacking EPA Commissioner, Scott Pruitt, because they say he paid too much for certain plane tickets, but too little for renting a room to sleep in?...Also they are attacking him because he pays women as much as men in the same roles

6:22 AM · 4 Apr 2018

21 Retweets 81 Likes



58 21 81



Governor Matt Bevin ●
@GovMattBevin

Following



(3/3)

Other than @POTUS , there is arguably no individual in America doing more to cut red tape and instill common sense into the political swamp than @EPAScottPruitt ...

6:40 AM · 4 Apr 2018

14 Retweets 57 Likes



28 14 57



Governor Matt Bevin ●
@GovMattBevin

Following



(2/3)

Their phony, hypocritical attacks ring are pathetic...

The truth is, they despise him because he is rare combination of intellect, competence and fearlessness and their liberal friends feel threatened by him...

6:06 AM · 4 Apr 2018

10 Retweets 45 Likes



10 10 45



Governor Matt Bevin ●
@GovMattBevin

Following



The job creators in America (and this governor, among others) are grateful to @EPAScottPruitt for his efforts, and look forward to many more years of his bold, transformational leadership at @EPA

Ignore the nattering nabobs of negativism and keep marching..

Onward and upward!

6:42 AM · 4 Apr 2018

8 Retweets 41 Likes



Kim Strassel, Wall Street Journal.



Kimberley Strassel ●
@KimStrassel

Following



This Pruitt flap is absurd. Obama EPA officials spent as much or more on travel. And career EPA ethics officials say he paid "reasonable market value" for the condo, and leasor had no business in front of EPA. The press might at least try to pretend it didn't have two standards.

3:15 PM · 3 Apr 2018

2,806 Retweets 6,510 Likes



Mollie Hemingway, The Federalist.



Mollie

@MZHemingway

Following

The media & other resistance leaders biggest target is Scott Pruitt. He's easily the most effective cabinet secretary. Would be huge victory for them, and huge loss for Trump, if they can pressure POTUS here.

9:11 PM · 2 Apr 2018

553 Retweets 1,312 Likes



Erick Erickson, Resurgent.

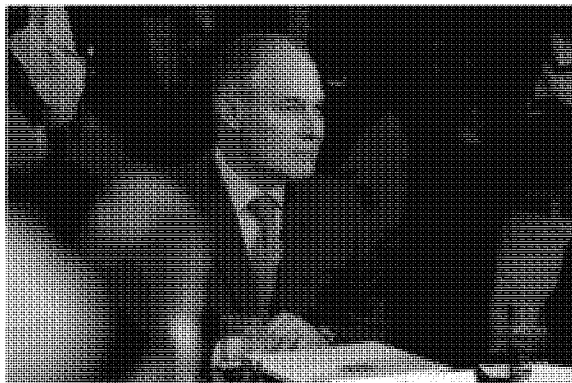


Erick Erickson

@IEWErickson

Follow

Firing Scott Pruitt Will Only Embolden the Left - buff.ly/2GwHTMd



9:21 AM · 4 Apr 2018

3 Retweets 8 Likes



Freedom Works.

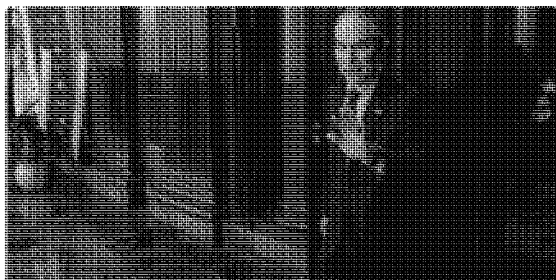


FreedomWorks

@FreedomWorks

Following

It's no surprise that the media is fixated on Scott Pruitt's living arrangements rather than praising his EPA reforms. #AMPFW



While media fixate on Scott Pruitt's living arrangements, his EPA reforms are ...
President Trump's EPA appears poised to liberate American consumers from Obama-era vehicle regulations rooted in misguided climate change policies.
washingtonexaminer.com

9:07 AM · 4 Apr 2018

Elisha Krauss, Real Daily Wire.



Elisha
@ElishaKrauss

Follow



Scott Pruitt and Jeff Sessions are two of my fav cabinet picks Trump made. He really needs to back these guys... They're doing good things.

10:21 AM · 4 Apr 2018

3 Likes



Cindy Bobbitt, National Association of Counties Central Region.



Cindy Bobbitt
@bobbitt_cindy

Follow



Thanks @EPAScottPruitt for advancing 22 deregulatory actions saving \$1 billion for #America helping #counties #Transportation champion of #WaterRights @NACoTweets @myokacco

11:39 AM · 4 Apr 2018

2 Likes



David Limbaugh, Columnist.

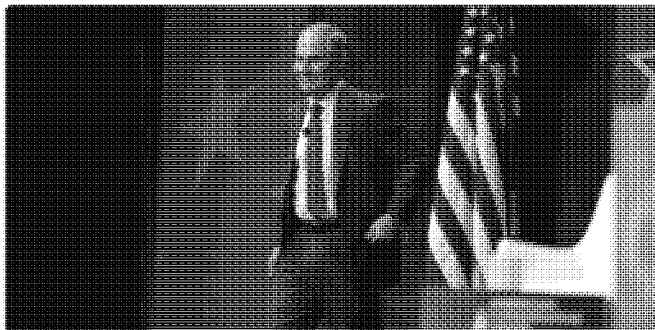


David Limbaugh
@DavidLimbaugh

Follow



This is most excellent -- from @MZHemingway




Scott Pruitt is Trump's Biggest Asset, So The Left Wants Him Gone

The media's biggest target after Trump is Scott Pruitt, the president's most effective cabinet secretary. Ousting him would be a huge victory.
thefederalist.com

9:39 AM · 4 Apr 2018

Count on Coal.

Count on Coal 
@countoncoal


Follow

Thank you to @EPAScottPruitt and @WhiteHouse for helping to end the war on coal -- affordable & reliable coal powers the nation! #countoncoal



2:08 PM - 4 Apr 2018

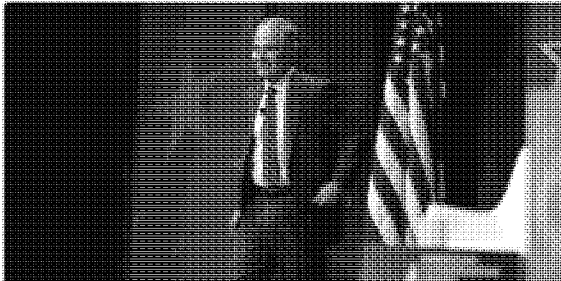
Kurt Schlichter, Townhall.

Kurt Schlichter 
@KurtSchlichter

Follow

These liars cannot be allowed to win.

Scott Pruitt Is Trump's Biggest Asset, So The Left Wants Him Gone




Scott Pruitt is Trump's Biggest Asset, So The Left Wants Him Gone

The media's biggest target after Trump is Scott Pruitt, the president's most effective cabinet secretary. Ousting him would be a huge victory.
thefederalist.com

2:14 PM - 4 Apr 2018

Arkansas Farm Bureau.

Arkansas Farm Bureau 
@ArFB

Following

Arkansas Farm Bureau Ppresident Randy Veach talks about a new level of cooperation with @EPA after meeting recently with @EPAScottPruitt and then following up Tuesday with a conversation with ROA Region 6 administrator Anne Idsal. See the video here: facebook.com/ArkansasFarmBu ...

2:44 PM - 4 Apr 2018 from Little Rock, AR

Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK).

"Administrator Pruitt has been instrumental in carrying out President Trump's deregulatory agenda at the EPA," Inhofe said in a statement. "I look forward to continuing to work with him to restore the EPA to its proper size and scope."

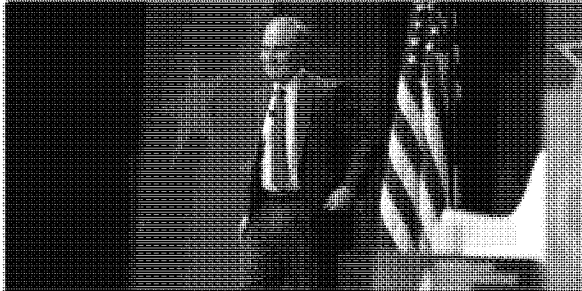
Rob Bluey, Daily Signal.



Rob Bluey
@RobertBluey

Follow

Scott Pruitt Is Trump's Biggest Asset, So The Left Wants Him Gone
thefederalist.com/2018/04/04/sco ... via
@MZHemingway



Scott Pruitt Is Trump's Biggest Asset, So The Left Wants Him Gone

The media's biggest target after Trump is Scott Pruitt, the president's most effective cabinet secretary. Ousting him would be a huge victory.

thefederalist.com

8:04 AM · 4 Apr 2018

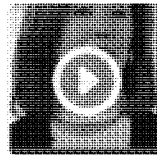


Rob Bluey
@RobertBluey

Follow

3 reasons why the left is going bonkers over
@EPAScottPruitt.

Hint: It's not about his bedroom rental.



3 Reasons the Left is Going After Scott Pruitt | The Daily Si...

The Daily Signal's Genevieve Wood explains why the left is going after Scott Pruitt.

youtube.com

4:19 PM · 4 Apr 2018



Rob Bluey
@RobertBluey · Apr 3

The weaponization of EPA is over. An exclusive @DailySignal interview with
@EPAScottPruitt.



The Weaponization of the EPA is Over: An Interview With Scott Pruitt

In his first year as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt has transformed the agency. The Daily Signal speaks to him a...

daily.signal.com

7 7 7 7 7



Rob Bluey
@RobertBluey

Follow

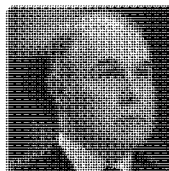
"This notion that we cannot be about jobs and stewardship of the environment is just simply not right," says
@EPAScottPruitt. "We can do both together."

8:18 PM · 3 Apr 2018



Rob Bluey
@RobertBluey · 3m

No agency has done more to follow the president's lead in draining the swamp than @EPAScottPruitt. That's why the left is smearing him.
thehill.com/opinion/white-... via @jennybathm



Scott Pruitt does his part to help Donald Trump dra...

No agency head has done more to cut bureaucracy and end regulations that harm Americans.

thehill.com

Friends of Coal – Kentucky

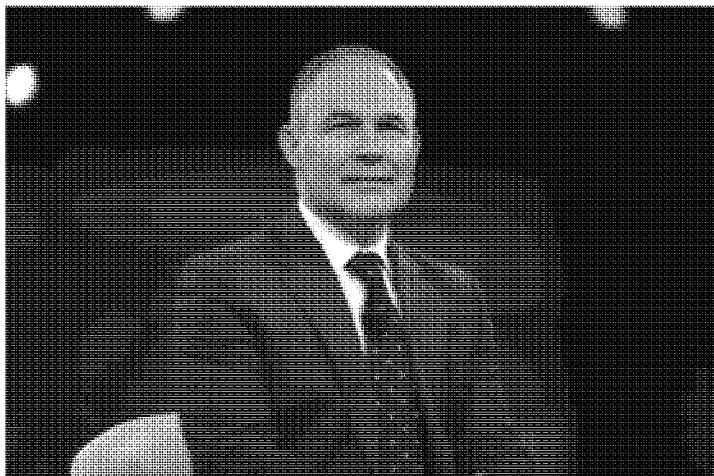


Friends of Coal-Kentucky

18 hrs · 🌐

...

Kentucky Coal Supports EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt... Keep up the great job!



Like



Comment



Share



California Farm Bureau



CA Farm Bureau @CAFarmBureau · 14h

✓

We support the efforts of @EPAScottPruitt to reform the Waters of the US rule, to bring certainty to California farmers and ranchers. #WOTUS



1



4



7



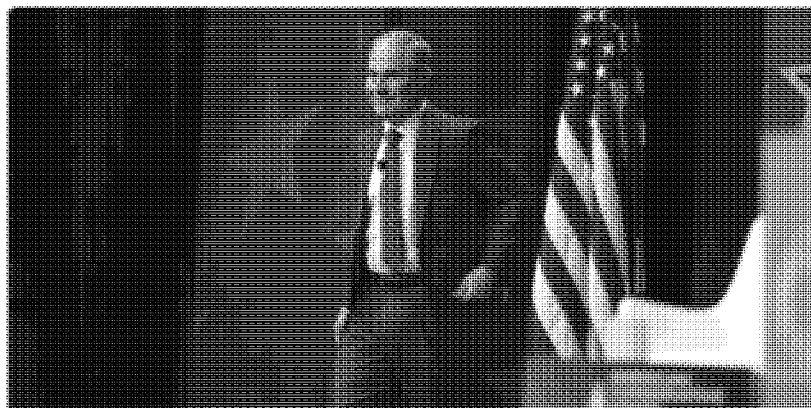
Kathleen Sgamma (President Western Energy Alliance)



Kathleen Sgamma @KathleenSgamma · 9m

✓

@EPAScottPruitt's biggest sin? Being effective at rolling back unlawful Obama #RegulatoryOverreach. How dare he return the rule of law & focus resources on water quality & cleaning up #GoldKing!

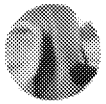


Scott Pruitt Is Trump's Biggest Asset, So The Left Wants Him Gone

The media's biggest target after Trump is Scott Pruitt, the president's most effective cabinet secretary. Ousting him would be a huge victory.

thefederalist.com

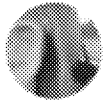
Jennifer Jacobs (Bloomberg WH Reporter)



Jennifer Jacobs ● @JenniferJacobs · 16m

BREAKING: Trump hasn't come back to our press cabin on Air Force One for a long time, but he did today to praise Scott Pruitt.

"He's been very courageous hasn't been easy," Trump said per @jeneps. "I can tell you at EPA he's done a fantastic job."



Jennifer Jacobs ● @JenniferJacobs · 1m

Conservatives going all out to publicly defend Scott Pruitt, including Ted Cruz and Rand Paul.

Other embattled Cabinet secretaries didn't benefit from a such a coordinated outpouring of external support — Rex Tillerson, David Shulkin, Tom Price.



Tweet



Ted Cruz ●
@tedcruz

This is compelling. Why do Obama and his media cronies want so badly to drive @EPAScottPruitt out of office? @realDonaldTrump is too cagey to be duped and bullied by the Obama groupies.



Senator Rand Paul ●
@RandPaul

.@EPAScottPruitt is likely the bravest and most conservative member of Trump's cabinet. We need him to help @realDonaldTrump drain the regulatory swamp.

4/5/18, 9:01 AM

2,723 Retweets 7,566 Likes

Jennifer Dlouhy (Bloomberg)



Jennifer A. Dlouhy ●

@jendlouhyhc

Following

Pruitt supporters are telling Trump: No Senate-confirmable replacement would work as hard and be as effective an advocate for the president's policy agenda.

12:18 PM · 5 Apr 2018

J. Kenneth Blackwell (Former Ohio State Treasurer, Secretary of State, Cincinnati Mayor)



J. Kenneth Blackwell @kenblackwell · Apr 3

#EPA Administrator Pruitt's #CAFE reform decision today is pro-jobs, pro-growth and pro-environment. Pruitt's EPA reform agenda reins in decades of out of control regulations that harm workers and consumers. #MAGA

Charlie Kirk



Charlie Kirk

@charliekirk11

Follow



Obama's cabinet ran amok with waste, abuse of power, and cronyism

The media is targeting Scott Pruitt because he is EFFECTIVELY reforming the Employment Prevention Agency (EPA)

He absolutely should not resign

You cannot give the left an inch, they will take a mile!

4:19 PM - 5 Apr 2018

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 9/27/2017 9:04:39 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: FW: Flight memos
Attachments: Authorization for Charter Aircraft_Administrator OK_7.26.2017.pdf; Request for Charter Service from Denver to Durango Package_8.24.2017.pdf; Request for Authorization_Use of MilAir-GC Memo_6.7.2017.pdf

From: Minoli, Kevin
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 4:50 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: Flight memos

Here are the three we were consulted on. The fourth trip reported to the Hill is this one:

1. North Dakota State Aircraft

Date: August 9, 2017

Itinerary: Grand Forks, North Dakota

Cost of Flight: \$2,144.40

Arrangements: This flight was arranged by the State of North Dakota.

EPA Employees: E. Scott Pruitt, Administrator
Millan Hupp, Director for Scheduling and Advance
Pasquale Perrotta, Protective Security Detail

Justification: The Governor of the State of North Dakota offered seats on a state-owned plane to transport the Administrator and his staff to this event. There is no government rate established for this route. The Administrator and his security detail are entitled to business class accommodation due to security concerns. This in-kind contribution by the State of North Dakota was approved by the EPA Ethics office (see attached approval forms).

Notes: This flight was to enable the Administrator to participate in a roundtable discussion and a tour of the University of North Dakota's Environmental Research Center.

Kevin S. Minoli
Acting General Counsel
Office of General Counsel
US Environmental Protection Agency
Main Office Line: 202-564-8040

From: Trudeau, Shaun
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 4:48 PM
To: Minoli, Kevin <Minoli.Kevin@epa.gov>
Subject: memos

Hi Kevin,

The requested OGC memos are attached.

Thank you,
Shaun

Shaun R. Trudeau
Attorney-Advisor
Special Assistant to the Principal Deputy
Office of General Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office: 202.564.5127



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Washington, D.C. 20460

JUL 26 2017

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Approval of Request for Charter Services

FROM: Elise B. Packard *EBP*
Acting Principal Deputy General Counsel
Office of General Counsel

TO: Kevin Chmielewski
Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations
Office of the Administrator

This memorandum responds to your request for authorization for the Administrator, seven EPA staff, and a non-federal employee to use charter aircraft on July 27, 2017. I have concluded that the circumstances you have provided in your request satisfy the regulations and policies governing EPA's use of charter aircraft. I am therefore authorizing the individuals listed in your request to travel on the Department of Interior's aircraft on July 27, 2017 from Tulsa, OK to Guymon, OK and from Guymon to Oklahoma City, OK.

As provided in your request, the Administrator, seven EPA staff, and one member of the media, are scheduled to use charter aircraft on the morning of July 27, 2017 to travel from Tulsa to Guymon for the purpose of meeting with landowners impacted by EPA's Waters of the United States Rule. The same individuals will then fly on the charter aircraft from Guymon to Oklahoma City to meet with state officials.

EPA employees

An agency's use of charter services is governed by OMB Circular A-126, OMB Bulletin 93-11, and 41 CFR §§ 102.33, 301-10.260 –10.266. Under these policies and procedures, OGC may authorize EPA employees to travel on charter aircraft in three situations:

- a) Mission Requirements. The activities undertaken on the trip are operational functions that are necessary to discharge an agency's official responsibilities. Examples include transportation of troops or equipment, evacuation, intelligence gathering or counter narcotics work, search and rescue, transportation of prisoners, and scientific applications such as research that requires the use of aircraft for experiments.
- b) Required Use. EPA can charter aircraft for its officials under this type of authorization for the purposes of bona fide communications (e.g., 24-hour secure communications) or security reasons (e.g., highly unusual circumstances that present a clear and

present danger) or exceptional scheduling requirements (e.g., a national emergency or other compelling operational considerations).

- c) Other Official Travel. Official travel that does not qualify as a “mission requirement” or “required use” travel may be undertaken by chartered aircraft in limited circumstances. To meet this test, EPA must determine 1) the travel is for the purpose of conducting agency business and 2) no commercial service is reasonably available to effectively fulfill EPA's requirements or that the actual cost of using a chartered aircraft is less than the cost of commercial airline service.

Here, the travel satisfies the criteria of “other official travel” because the travel is for the purpose of conducting agency business and there are no commercial aircraft that offer flights to Guymon. As stated in your request, the purpose of the visit to Guymon is to meet with Gary Weabie of the Panhandle Irrigators Association, and landowners whose farms have been affected by the Waters of the United States Rule. Your request also provides that Guymon is in a remote location and Guymon Municipal Airport is too small to accommodate commercial aircraft.

Non-federal employee

Under 31 U.S.C. § 1345, EPA funds are not available to pay for the transportation of non-federal employees to meetings (a term DOJ's Office of Legal Counsel interprets broadly) unless otherwise authorized by law (such as under invitational travel orders, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. §5703). Absent such authority, a non-federal employee may travel on government aircraft only if he or she is occupying a seat that would otherwise be vacant. That is, non-federal employees may ride along only if the vehicle has available extra seats, and EPA does not expend any additional funds to accommodate the non-federal employees (e.g., EPA does not rent a larger vehicle to accommodate the non-federal employees).

It is permissible for the member of the media noted in the request to accompany the EPA employees on the charter flight because we have determined that s/he will be occupying a seat on the aircraft that would otherwise be vacant. Therefore, EPA will not be spending appropriated funds on a non-federal employee.

Conclusion

Based on the information provided to me, I authorize the use of government aircraft for the requested individuals on July 27, 2017 from Tulsa to Guymon and from Guymon to Oklahoma City. Travel on a charter service is appropriate here because the purpose of the trip is to conduct the Administrator's official business of studying the impact of EPA regulations on farmers, and the town is not accessible through commercial means. The member of the media may also accompany the EPA employees on the flight because there is no additional cost to the Agency to accommodate him or her.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please do not hesitate to contact me (202-564-7729) or Stephanie Rich (202-564-4963).



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Washington, D.C. 20460

JUN 07 2017

OFFICE OF
GENERAL COUNSEL

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Request for Authorization for Government (Military) Aircraft Travel

FROM: Kevin S. Minoli
Acting General Counsel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KSS", written over the printed name and title.

TO: Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff

This memorandum responds to your request for my review of whether the circumstances regarding the Administrator's schedule and obligations on June 7, 2017 and June 8, 2017, satisfy the standard for the authorized use of a government aircraft for one portion of the necessary transportation between those obligations, and, if so, your request for my authorization, pursuant to 41 CFR sec. 301-70.803(b). Because I conclude that the regulatory and other standards are satisfied by the circumstances as they have been provided to me, this memo provides authorization for the Administrator and required accompanying EPA staff to travel from Cincinnati, Ohio, to the John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK Airport) in New York, New York, on a military aircraft operated by the United States Department of the Air Force. The travel will occur today, June 7, 2017.

The Administrator is currently scheduled to depart Washington, DC, to travel to Rome, Italy, later today (June 7, 2017) as the lead official on a diplomatic mission for the United States Government. While in Italy, the Administrator is scheduled to represent the United States at the G-7 Environment Ministerial, in bi-lateral meetings with individual Environment Ministers, in bi-lateral meetings with the Vatican, and in meetings with United States businesses that have locations in Italy. This official, mission-critical travel has been coordinated with the Department of State and the local United States Embassy. See attachment 1, "Notional Itinerary for EPA Administrator Mission to Italy."

In addition, the President directed Administrator Pruitt to accompany the President today (June 7, 2017) aboard Air Force One and travel to Cincinnati, Ohio, to attend and participate in water infrastructure-related public events. See attachment 2, "The Visit of the President to Cincinnati, OH Wednesday, June 7, 2017." As explained in the June 7 memoranda from the Deputy Chief of Staff respectively, the Administrator's original travel itinerary had to be changed to depart for Italy from Cincinnati, Ohio, instead of Washington, D.C., given the need to immediately travel to Cincinnati to support the Presidential event. See attachment 3, Email from John Reeder, Deputy Chief of Staff, to Kevin Minoli, Acting General Counsel, and Elise Packard, Acting Principal Deputy General Counsel, June 7, 2017. According to the attached schedules, the Administrator

will not complete his obligations with the President until 2:05 p.m. Currently, the Administrator is scheduled to depart JFK Airport at 7:35 p.m. I understand from the information provided to me by you and the attached email from the Deputy Chief of Staff that there are no commercial flights leaving Cincinnati, Ohio for JFK Airport that would arrive in time for the scheduled flight to Italy. I also understand from you that there are no other viable flight itineraries that would arrive in Italy on schedule have been identified.

EPA's use of non-commercial travel services is governed by OMB Circular A-126, OMB Bulletin 93-11, and the Federal Travel Regulations at 41 CFR parts 301-10 and 301-70. Under these policies and procedures, the "agency's senior legal official or his/her principal deputy must authorize all travel on Government aircraft by senior Federal officials on a trip-by-trip basis, in advance and in writing." 41 CFR sec. 301-70.803(b). Travel can be authorized on government aircraft in three situations:

- a) Mission Requirements. The activities undertaken on the trip are operational functions that are necessary to discharge an agency's official responsibilities. Examples include transportation of troops or equipment, evacuation, intelligence gathering or counter narcotics work, search and rescue, transportation of prisoners, and scientific applications such as research that requires the use of aircraft for experiments;
- b) Required Use. Travel via government aircraft is authorized if it is for the purposes of bona fide communications (e.g., 24-hour secure communications) or security reasons (e.g., highly unusual circumstances that present a clear and present danger) or exceptional scheduling requirements (e.g., a national emergency or other compelling operational considerations); or
- c) Other Official Travel. Official travel that does not qualify as a "mission requirement" or "required use" travel may be undertaken in a government aircraft in limited circumstances. EPA must determine that no commercial service is reasonably available to effectively fulfill its requirements (i.e., no commercial service must be able to meet the traveler's departure and/or arrival times within a 24-hour period unless extraordinary circumstances justify a shorter period or that the actual cost of using a chartered aircraft is less than the cost of commercial airline service).

See, OMB Circular A-126, OMB Bulletin 93-11, and the Federal Travel Regulations at 41 CFR parts 301-10 and 301-70. I evaluated this travel request under the "required use" and "other official travel" Standards. Regarding "required use", OMB Circular A-126 states that a "required use" travel determination must be consistent with established agency policies for determining when such use is permitted. The EPA's Travel Manual states in relevant part:

...use of a federal government aircraft, chartered or federal government owned, must comply with the OMB Circular A-126. The EPA must need the service to fulfill a mission requirement, exceptional scheduling, communication or security requirements, or there is a substantial cost savings to the federal government.

Referring back to the standard for a "required use" authorization described above, use of a government aircraft may be authorized for one of three reasons: 1) bona fide communications; 2) security; or 3) exceptional scheduling considerations. The requested travel on a government aircraft is not necessary for communications or security reasons. There are, however, exceptional scheduling considerations that satisfy the standard for authorizing this travel on a government aircraft. The Administrator's schedule requires him to accompany the President in Cincinnati, Ohio, today, June 7, 2017, and requires him to represent the United States Government at previously-scheduled meetings in Rome, Italy tomorrow, June 8, 2017. Both obligations have been deemed critical to the mission of the agency. The temporal proximity and geographic distance between the two obligations jointly constitute an exceptional scheduling requirement.

In order to authorize travel on a government aircraft under the "other official use" standard, it must be determined that no commercial service is reasonably available to fulfill the agency's requirements. This is generally established when there is no commercial service available to meet the traveler's departure and/or arrival times within a 24-hour period, unless extraordinary circumstances justify a shorter period. Here, the extraordinary circumstances described above justify a shorter period of consideration other than 24-hours. Additionally, based on the information provided to me by you and in the attachments, there is no commercial service available to meet the agency's travel need.

Based on the information provided to me, I authorize the use of government aircraft for the Administrator's travel today (June 7, 2017) from Cincinnati, Ohio, to JFK Airport based on the conclusion that the travel satisfies both the "required use" standard and the "other official travel" standard for such an authorization. My review and authorization is limited to the authorization to travel on a government aircraft; it does not represent any other required authorizations or approvals, such as those necessary under EPA's Travel Policy, nor does it represent the authorization or approval of the individual trips themselves.

Attachments

cc: John Reeder, Deputy Chief of Staff




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Washington, D.C. 20460

AUG 24 2017

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Approval of Request for Charter Service from Denver to Durango

FROM: Kevin S. Minoli 
Acting General Counsel
Office of General Counsel

TO: Kevin Chmielewski
Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations
Office of the Administrator

This memorandum responds to your request for written approval for the Administrator and three EPA employees to use a charter service to fly from Denver to Durango, CO on August 4, 2017. I have concluded that the circumstances you have provided in your request satisfy the regulations and policies governing EPA's use of charter aircraft. I am therefore, memorializing my prior verbal approval of your request.

On August 4, 2017, the Administrator and his staff were scheduled to attend a meeting at Gold King Mine, near Durango, to discuss the mine spill with the Colorado Congressional delegation, the Colorado Governor, key community leaders, and stakeholders. The Administrator was scheduled to take a commercial flight from Denver at 9:10 a.m. that would arrive in Durango at 11 a.m. When the Administrator and his staff arrived at the airport in Denver for their departure to Durango, they learned that the flight had been delayed. The delay pushed the flight's arrival time beyond the Administrator's scheduled meeting time at Gold King Mine.

Pursuant to OMB Circular A-126, in emergency situations, EPA's General Counsel or Principal General Counsel may give prior verbal approval of the Agency's use of a charter service and after-the-fact written certification. In this case, the Administrator urgently needed a mode of transportation to make his meeting and did not have sufficient time to request formal approval from OGC. I was contacted by the EPA's Chief of Staff, Ryan Jackson, to provide verbal approval of the use of a private charter service. Based on the facts presented to me, I gave my verbal approval for the Agency's use of a charter service, which I believed qualified as "other official travel" under GSA's authorized uses of charter aircraft. Ryan Jackson agreed to deliver the appropriate paperwork to OGC the following week so I could provide my formal approval. This information was documented in an email dated August 4, 2017.

An agency's use of charter services is governed by OMB Circular A-126 and 41 CFR §§ 102.33, 301-10.260 –10.266. Under these policies and procedures, one of the three situations in which OGC may approve EPA's use of a charter service is for "other official travel." To meet this test, EPA must determine 1) the travel is for the purpose of conducting agency business and 2) no commercial service is reasonably available to effectively fulfill EPA's requirements or that the actual cost of using a chartered aircraft is less than the cost of commercial airline service. Here, the travel satisfies the criteria of "other official travel." As stated in your request, the purpose of the Administrator's visit was to meet with state representatives and stakeholders to discuss EPA's response to the Gold King Mine spill. You also state in your request that there were no alternative commercial flights that would allow the Administrator and his team to make the meeting on time.

Based on information provided to me, I am formally authorizing EPA's use of a charter service from August 4, 2017 from Denver to Durango. If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please do not hesitate to contact me (202-564-8040) or Stephanie Rich (202-564-4963).

CORRESPONDENCE ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP**Routed From***printed 08/24/2017 03:09:47 PM*

Law Office	Originator	Date Due	ID Number
CRFLO	Stephanie Rich	09/01/2017	OGC-3088

Action Requested

<input type="checkbox"/> Concurrence by GC	<input type="checkbox"/> Concurrence by Front Office	<input type="checkbox"/> FYI
<input type="checkbox"/> Signature by GC	<input type="checkbox"/> Signature by Front Office	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Routed To

Law Office	Approver	Approved?
1. Front Office	Shaun Trudeau	✓ YES 08/24/2017 02:18:40 PM
2. Front Office	Kevin Minoli	
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

Package Information

Document Type

Memorandum

Case Name/Subject

Case or File Number

Approval of Request for Charter Service from Denver to Durango

N/A

Comments from the ORIGINATOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Justification for Charter Services for the Administrator

**FROM: Kevin Chmielewski,
Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations**

**TO: Kenneth Redden,
Acting Associate General Counsel,
Civil Rights and Finance Law Office**

This memorandum requests that the Office of General Counsel approve the use of charter services for the Administrator under the circumstances set forth below. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 202-564-3140 or Millan Hupp of my staff at 202-564-1748.

JUSTIFICATION FOR AIRPLANE CHARTER IN COLORADO

The Administrator and other EPA employees visited Gold King Mine in Durango, Colorado. The following employees are traveled via charter from Denver to Durango on August 4th:

E. Scott Pruitt, Administrator
Pasquale Perrotta, Protective Security Detail
Lincoln Ferguson, Senior Advisor to the Administrator
Amy Graham, Deputy Associate Administrator, OPA

PURPOSE

Administrator was scheduled to be at Gold King Mine for a tour and meeting beginning at 11AM. His flight was scheduled to land in Durango (1 hour, 45 min) from Gold King at 9:10AM. The traveling EPA staff did not learn of the delay until arrival at the airport in Denver that morning. The flight continued to be delayed, all the while they searched for alternative options. None became available and with no indication for an immediate depart for the already scheduled commercial flight, the decision was made to pursue a charter plane in order to fulfill the mission.

Therefore, the Administrator departed from Denver, CO on August 4th, 2017 via a charter aircraft to Durango, CO to make a mission critical meeting at Gold King Mine. This meeting involved the Colorado Congressional delegation, the Governor, and key community leaders and stakeholders, and it was essential that the Administrator attend. The Administrator's original commercial flight was delayed beyond the timeframe for the scheduled meeting. Thus only allowing for the option to use a charter aircraft.

From: Minoli, Kevin
To: Redden, Kenneth; Askew, Wendel; Talbert-Duarte, Angelia; Rich, Stephanie; Fugh, Justina
Cc: Reeder, John; Brown, Reginald; Davis, Gail; Packard, Elise
Subject: Update on Administrator's Travel Today
Date: Friday, August 04, 2017 12:58:12 PM

All- I wanted to provide an update on the Administrator's travel situation today. As those of you who are in the office know, the flight the Administrator intended to take from Denver to Durango today was delayed to such a degree that he would miss a mission critical meeting at Gold King Mine. That meeting involved the Colorado Congressional delegation, the Governor, and key community leaders and stakeholders, and it was essential that the Administrator attend. Based upon my conversation with Ryan Jackson, there were no other available flights from Denver to Durango that would have worked with the scheduled meeting. People also looked into flights from airports near to Denver into Durango or other locations near Gold King Mine. While there was one potential alternative identified that had one seat available (and the airline may have gone as far as to reserve that seat in case we determined it would meet the travel needs and requirements), Ryan's understanding from the security detail was that there was not any additional seat for a Special Agent to accompany the Administrator and, therefore, that flight did not meet the travel and security needs. Similarly, there was only one seat available on a plane with the Governor, so without the Governor removing someone else from the trip that was not an option either. After calling and consulting with me, there was a decision to secure a flight with a commercially-available charter service (<http://mayoaviation.com/charter/>). Ryan relayed that the cost was approximately \$5200. Ryan will deliver all of the paperwork to the AO team and us on Monday when they return to the office. At that point will we document the oral consultation and conclusion more formally.

AO folks, I cc'd you so everyone had awareness of where things stand from my perspective. If you want to talk through any aspect of this understanding today, please give me a call.

Thanks, Kevin

Kevin S. Minoli
Acting General Counsel
Office of General Counsel
US Environmental Protection Agency
Main Office Line: 202-564-8040

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/5/2018 6:02:02 PM
To: Kelly, Albert [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08576e43795149e5a3f9669726dd044c-Kelly, Albe]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]; Leopold, Matt [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4e5cdf09a3924dada6d322c6794cc4fa-Leopold, Ma]
CC: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Right, let's have an in person conversation when we believe we have it all ready to send.

From: Kelly, Albert
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:59 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Albert Kelly
Senior Advisor to the Administrator
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Ex. 6

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:58 PM
To: Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Kelly, Albert
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:56 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Albert Kelly
Senior Advisor to the Administrator
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Ex. 6

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:55 PM
To: Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

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To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Albert Kelly
Senior Advisor to the Administrator
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Ex. 6

From: Leopold, Matt
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:50 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Lincoln,

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Matthew Z. Leopold
General Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:27 PM
To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Request for comment please

Matt – please review the below responses. Deadline is 3pm.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

++ Mr. Chmielewski objected to a proposal to buy a charter aircraft membership for \$100,000-per-month that would have allowed Mr. Pruitt to take an unlimited number of private jet trips for official business

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

++ One of these staff members objected to a proposal to spend more than \$70,000 to replace the desks in Mr. Pruitt's office suite, including both the administrator's personal desk and one at a security station just outside his office. Pasquale Perrotta argued that the desks should be replaced with a bullet-proof model. This purchase did not go ahead. Instead, a brown-maple wood stand-up desk, was purchased from an Ohio craftsman and a separate desk retrieved a federal government warehouse in Virginia and was refurbished at a cost of \$2,075 for Mr. Pruitt

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

++ The security detail lead questioned Mr. Pruitt's desire to utilize use of lights and sirens in his motorcade if he was running late, like on his way to a restaurant or airport. In at least one case, Mr. Pruitt wanted these used on his way to Le Diplomate,

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

++ A member of the security detail also made it be known that he would be reluctant to sign off on requests—which were part of his job to review—for authorization for Mr. Pruitt to fly first class, based on security concerns. Only after Mr. Perrotta took over as security detail lead did Mr. Pruitt begin to regularly fly first class.

++ Others questioned the need for an approximately 20 person security detail team, that provided 24-7 coverage, instead of 5 person "portal to portal" team with the prior EPA administrator.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

++ At least one senior staffer questioned the need for the expenses associated with sound proof both, suggesting instead that a broom closet could be used at a total cost of about \$10,000, instead of the final cost for the actual booth of about \$43,000

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

As an aside, we know of the allegations raised against Mr. Chmielewski related to his security clearance that the IG investigated and found were not substantiated. We also know of complaints that he was hard to reach while he was out of the office doing advance work for the VP.

What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]

Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 10:02 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Request for comment please

Hi Jahan and Liz

We are finishing work on a story about the EPA that addresses concerns that were raised by certain HQ staff members related to travel, office spending and issues related to security protocols by the Office of the Administrator.

The story notes how four individuals who raised these objections--Kevin Chmielewski, John E. Reeder and Reginald E. Allen, and Eric Weese--were later transferred to different jobs, or moved on their own to a different job after being told to find a new role, or in Kevin's case, put on leave.

We know that there are different circumstances involving each of these individuals, three of whom are career and one is political. But we wanted to go in detail here through some of the issues that these staff members raised and then the way their jobs were shifted after their raised these issues.

We welcome your specific responses to these issues. But we need any response you want to offer by 3 p.m. today, Thursday, April 5.

Here are the specific factual assertions I welcome you to address;

++ Mr. Chmielewski objected to a proposal to buy a charter aircraft membership for \$100,000-per-month that would have allowed Mr. Pruitt to take an unlimited number of private jet trips for official business

++ One of these staff members objected to a proposal to spend more than \$70,000 to replace the desks in Mr. Pruitt's office suite, including both the administrator's personal desk and one at a security station just outside his office. Pasquale Perrotta argued that the desks should be replaced with a bullet-proof model. This purchase did not go ahead. Instead, a brown-maple wood stand-up desk, was purchased from an Ohio craftsman and a separate desk retrieved a federal government warehouse in Virginia and was refurbished at a cost of \$2,075 for Mr. Pruitt

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++ Others questioned the need for an approximately 20 person security detail team, that provided 24-7 coverage, instead of 5 person "portal to portal" team with the prior EPA administrator.

++ At least one senior staffer questioned the need for the expenses associated with sound proof booth, suggesting instead that a broom closet could be used at a total cost of about \$10,000, instead of the final cost for the actual booth of about \$43,000

As an aside, we know of the allegations raised against Mr. Chmielewski related to his security clearance that the IG investigated and found were not substantiated. We also know of complaints that he was hard to reach while he was out of the office doing advance work for the VP.

Finally a few additional questions.

1) There is a rumor going around in Washington that Mr. Pruitt used the Vicki Hart condo as part of an effort to have an affair with Samantha Dravis. We wanted to be direct and ask if there is any truth to this. Please advise.

2) What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

3) Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Thanks very much - I'm on my cell,
Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office

Ex. 6

cell

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/5/2018 5:51:43 PM
To: Leopold, Matt [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4e5cdf09a3924dada6d322c6794cc4fa-Leopold, Ma]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]
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Subject: RE: Request for comment please

She originally gave us a 3pm deadline.

From: Leopold, Matt
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:50 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Lincoln,

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

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General Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-8040

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Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:27 PM
To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
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Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

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Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

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Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]

Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 10:02 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Request for comment please

Hi Jahan and Liz

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The story notes how four individuals who raised these objections—Kevin Chmielewski, John E. Reeder and Reginald E. Allen, and Eric Weese—were later transferred to different jobs, or moved on their own to a different job after being told to find a new role, or in Kevin's case, put on leave.

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Thanks very much - I'm on my cell,
Lisa

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Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office

Ex. 6 cell

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 5/1/2018 10:02:17 PM
To: Vizian, Donna [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cb2401bf8d4f441dbf27f21e122be2c5-Vizian, Donna]; Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Greaves, Holly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=abcb6428b3df40a9a78b059a8ba59707-Greaves, Ho]
CC: Grantham, Nancy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=12a3c2ed7158417fb0bb1b1b72a8cfb0-Grantham, Nancy]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Running something by you

With field goals and everything.

From: Vizian, Donna
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 6:02 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Running something by you

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 5:37 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>
Cc: Vizian, Donna <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Running something by you

UPDATED ... Donna and RJ can you approve.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 5:19 PM
To: Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Vizian, Donna <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln

<ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Running something by you

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Jackson, Ryan

Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 5:15 PM

To: Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Cc: Vizian, Donna <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Running something by you

I just sent new information on which to fashion a quote. Please ensure its accuracy.

From: Greaves, Holly

Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 5:12 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Vizian, Donna <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: APPROVAL: Running something by you

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Sent from my iPhone

On May 1, 2018, at 5:02 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Need approval from Ryan, Donna and Holly.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 4:45 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Running something by you

Hello again,

Apologies for the multiple requests. This just arrived in my inbox from House Dems.

Were these plans for a Tulsa office true? And if so, were they cancelled (and why?)

Thanks so much,
Valerie

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Has Sought New EPA Office Complete with Secure Facility in Hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma

(Washington, DC) – Today, **Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)**, **Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Oversight, Congressman Donald S. Beyer Jr. (D-VA)** and **Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Environment, Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)** sent two records request letters to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the General Services Administration (GSA). The letters request documents and communications regarding EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's efforts to establish a new EPA office in his hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, despite the fact that EPA already has a regional office in nearby Dallas, Texas. The Administrator requested the new office include a conference room, secure parking space, and a Secure Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). Earlier this month the Government Accountability Office (GAO) ruled that the EPA's construction of a "soundproof privacy booth in the EPA Administrator's office" in Washington, D.C., which reportedly has not been certified as a SCIF, was unlawful because it violated the Antideficiency Act.

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"Establishing a new EPA office in Tulsa may be personally convenient for you, but it seems ethically questionable, professionally unnecessary, and financially unjustified," the Ranking Members wrote to Administrator Pruitt.

Valerie Volcovici
Correspondent
Reuters

Phone: +1 (202) 898 8373

Mobile/Signal: Ex. 6

1333 H Street NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Twitter: @ValerieVolco

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 5/1/2018 9:40:26 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Greaves, Holly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=abcb6428b3df40a9a78b059a8ba59707-Greaves, Ho]
CC: Vizian, Donna [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cb2401bf8d4f441dbf27f21e122be2c5-Vizian, Donna]; Grantham, Nancy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=12a3c2ed7158417fb0bb1b1b72a8cfb0-Grantham, Nancy]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Running something by you

It's fine with me.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 5:37 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>
Cc: Vizian, Donna <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Running something by you

UPDATED ... Donna and RJ can you approve.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 5:19 PM
To: Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Vizian, Donna <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Running something by you

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 5:15 PM
To: Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Vizian, Donna <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Running something by you

I just sent new information on which to fashion a quote. Please ensure its accuracy.

From: Greaves, Holly
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 5:12 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Vizian, Donna <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: APPROVAL: Running something by you

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Sent from my iPhone

On May 1, 2018, at 5:02 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Need approval from Ryan, Donna and Holly.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com [<mailto:valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 4:45 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Running something by you

Hello again,

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Correspondent
Reuters

Phone: +1 (202) 898 8373

Mobile/Signal: Ex. 6

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Washington, DC 20005
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Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 5/1/2018 9:15:57 PM
To: White, Elizabeth [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f8af641a6306479c9026142ef3b02bd7-White, Eliz]; Leopold, Matt [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4e5cdf09a3924dada6d322c6794cc4fa-Leopold, Ma]
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Running something by you

I need for OEX to run that ryan_jackson@inchofe.senate.gov search as soon as possible so we can respond with the most accurate information.

From: White, Elizabeth
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 5:15 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Running something by you

Not that I am aware of. I'm double-checking though.

Beth White
Director, Office of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-1781 direct
Ex. 6 cell

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 5:11 PM
To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; White, Elizabeth <white.elizabeth@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: APPROVAL: Running something by you

Did this get produced pursuant to a FOIA?

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 5:03 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Vizian, Donna <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: APPROVAL: Running something by you

Need approval from Ryan, Donna and Holly.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 4:45 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>

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Correspondent
Reuters

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Mobile/Signal

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Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Twitter: @ValerieVolco

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Sent: 5/1/2018 9:09:43 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Vizian, Donna [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cb2401bf8d4f441dbf27f21e122be2c5-Vizian, Donna]; Grantham, Nancy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=12a3c2ed7158417fb0bb1b1b72a8cfb0-Grantham, Nancy]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]; Greaves, Holly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=abcb6428b3df40a9a78b059a8ba59707-Greaves, Ho]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
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Correspondent
Reuters

Phone: +1 (202) 898 8373

Mobile/Signal:

Ex. 6

1333 H Street NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Twitter: @ValerieVolco

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 8/15/2018 2:00:45 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=12a3c2ed7158417fb0bb1b1b72a8cfb0-Grantham, Nancy]; Konkus, John [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=555471b2baa6419e8e141696f4577062-Konkus, Joh]; Beach, Christopher [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6b124299bb6f46a39aa5d84519f25d5d-Beach, Chri]; Hewitt, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=41b19dd598d340bb8032923d902d4bd1-Hewitt, Jam]; Abboud, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6f5af791a1842f1adcc088cbf9ed3ce-Abboud, Mic]; Block, Molly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=60d0c681a16441a0b4fa16aa2dd4b9c5-Block, Moll]
Attachments: OECA Comments on Revisions to Recommendations in the OIG Draft Report, Project No. OA-FY16-0265, dated May 30, 2018 (Word Version 8-14-18).docx; Agency response to OIG Draft Report for Project No. OA-FY16-0265 Agents Assigned to Protective Service Detail Lack Statutory Authority To Protect the EPA Administrator.pdf; Final Redline 062918Redline on OIG Draft Memo.docx

The OIG will issue soon the first of their audits on Pruitt. The first will be on the PSD.

The attached pdf is our agency response. However, we are unsure what all the audit will include because as you can see by the redline we provided OIG on their original draft, it was off the mark a lot.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6

Message

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Sent: 8/29/2018 7:57:51 PM
To: Abboud, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6f5af791a1842f1adcc088cbf9ed3ce-Abboud, Mic]
CC: Konkus, John [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=555471b2baa6419e8e141696f4577062-Konkus, Joh]; Grantham, Nancy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=12a3c2ed7158417fb0bb1b1b72a8cfb0-Grantham, Nancy]; Block, Molly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=60d0c681a16441a0b4fa16aa2dd4b9c5-Block, Moll]; Beach, Christopher [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6b124299bb6f46a39aa5d84519f25d5d-Beach, Chri]
Subject: first 11 pages only
Attachments: Agency response to OIG Draft Report for Project No. OA-FY16-0265 Agents Assigned to Protective Service Detail Lack Statutory Authority To Protect the EPA Administrator.pdf

Duplicate

Sept 4

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6

Message

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Sent: 6/13/2018 11:41:30 PM
To: Bodine, Susan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c2cc6086fcc44c3be6b5d32b262d983-Bodine, Sus]; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=991ab84f64be4b6b9dd10a68c81887b0-HAWodd]
Subject: FW:
Attachments: OIG.hewa.6.8.2018.doc; Audit Objective 1.docx.heaw.docx; Audit Objectives 2 3.docx.hewa.docx

Helena has the attached. I would like for her to attend the 10am tomorrow morning with Art.

If possible I would like to call in? Can I just call in to an intercom phone or someone's cell?

From: Wooden-Aguilar, Helena
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 1:24 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject:

Attached is my draft document in response to OIG Audit Travel Report. I have also included the OIG Audit reports as a FYI.

Helena Wooden-Aguilar
Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-0792 (office)

Ex. 6

 (mobile)
wooden-aguilar.helena@epa.gov

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 5/24/2018 10:13:06 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; White, Elizabeth [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f8af641a6306479c9026142ef3b02bd7-White, Eliz]; Bodine, Susan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c2cc6086fcc44c3be6b5d32b262d983-Bodine, Sus]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]
Subject: RE: APPROVAL --

Ok. Thanks.

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 6:05 PM
To: White, Elizabeth <white.elizabeth@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Bodine, Susan <bodine.susan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Subject: APPROVAL --

If we are able to post these numbers to our website tomorrow, attached are the documents that we will share with CBS News first (embargoed for tomorrow morning).

“Administrator Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and to provide transparency EPA will post the costs of his security detail and pro-actively release these numbers on a quarterly basis. Americans should all agree that members of the President’s cabinet should be kept safe from violent threats.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

BACKGROUND ...

Patrick Sullivan, EPA's Assistant Inspector General For Investigations said there are a number of threats against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. “We have at least four times -- four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than we had against Ms. [Gina] McCarthy,” said Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant inspector general for investigations, referring to Pruitt's predecessor during the Obama administration. He declined to provide the specific numbers of threats against Pruitt. ‘They run the variety of direct death threats -- ‘I’m going to put a bullet in your brain’ -- to implied threats -- ‘if you don’t classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I’m going to hurt you,’” Sullivan told CNN in an interview. ‘Then there’s implied threats -- like they say in New York, with the mafia: ‘If you come after me and my family, I’ll come after you and your family.’” (CNN, 11/28/17)

According to Patrick Sullivan, threats have nearly doubled against Pruitt. “In an interview with E&E News, Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant IG for investigations, said the watchdog opened roughly 70 threat probes in fiscal 2017, including cases and complaints related to EPA facilities and personnel. That surpassed the total of about 45 such probes into threats against EPA from fiscal 2016. Sullivan also said Pruitt has faced more threats than his immediate predecessors, former administrators Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson. ‘He has had significantly more threats directed against him. There’s absolutely no question about it,’ Sullivan said.” (E&E News, 01/11/18)

Threats have been made against Pruitt and his family. "The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency said an increase in his security detail is the result of an escalation in threats to him and his family. 'The quantity and the volume -- as well as the type -- of threats are different,' Pruitt said in an interview with Bloomberg News. 'What's really disappointing to me as it's not just me -- it's family.'" ([Bloomberg](#), 10/26/17)

Pruitt said threats the level of protection is decided by the threat. "The level of protection is dictated by the level of threat," Pruitt said, noting security arrangements are decided by others assessing the situation." ([Bloomberg](#), 10/26/17)

EPA's Office EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnet said there have been incidents of aggressive behavior against Pruitt. "There were 'incidents where he was being approached -- vulgar language, people were being somewhat aggressive towards him -- and so the special agent in charge provided documentation -- a memo -- to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator.'" ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

EPA's Office EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnet said it's their job to ensure they can pull Pruitt away from threats. "The agents have to make sure he's in a position where they can protect him," the director of EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnet, said in an interview. "If he's surrounded by other members of the public or it's a threat, their job is to push him and pull him away from those threats. That's why it is imperative to keep him away from the individuals so they can keep him safe." ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

EPA's Protective Service Detail says there is a high level of interest against Pruitt. "Perrotta described a 'high level of unusual interest in the administrator,' calling it the most he's ever seen while safeguarding EPA chiefs." ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

Message

From: Trent, Bobbie [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=08B98C62C53442CF8E6EEE9A1D5C648B-BTRENT]
Sent: 7/2/2018 5:16:21 PM
To: Conklin, Jeanne [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=481fa3d82ac8418496c9ca2d96a93785-JConklin]; Elkins, Arthur [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8e6cfef587834f388791a500a803e7b2-Elkins, Arthur]; Greaves, Holly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=abcb6428b3df40a9a78b059a8ba59707-Greaves, Ho]
CC: Bodine, Susan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c2cc6086fcc44c3be6b5d32b262d983-Bodine, Sus]; Leopold, Matt (OGC) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4e5cdf09a3924dada6d322c6794cc4fa-Leopold, Ma]; Bloom, David [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88536665fcb47128f88b2590c141659-DBloom]; Osborne, Howard [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5a0f7f9614d5483fbc7ab1d283ed62b7-Osborne, Ho]; Christensen, Kevin [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5f4892056f1f4cfb998b2cd434052686-Christensen, Kevin]; Jones-Peeler, Meshell [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed2ef9b868cb4e57a23db68491cb9f4f-MJones12]; Brookshire, Malena [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b3a59756b77c4a73aada9934b87d587f-Brookshire,]; Packard, Elise [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6d4ad4c6abb24f54a2c8c16fa17ba0fd-Packard, El]; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=991ab84f64be4b6b9dd10a68c81887b0-HAWodd]; Trefry, John [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6aa5b5a5d80445cbc0ca0ee1a7c6cc4-Trefry, John]; Anthony, Sherri [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0756f1695adf4090952b9e21dd1206a6-SAnthony]; Monson, Mahri [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=fe16c321270a466c90286d60e81b292c-Mmonson]; Spriggs, Gwendolyn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4b039668b37f4ffb9b3f1effc89442d0-GSprig02]; Bennett, Angela [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=203e519e98b54e0e92824491db6edee4-Bennett, Angela]; Wong, Lela [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=57680e71c0b849a8b47b403f475d6633-Wong, Lela]; Jackson, Ryan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=38bc8e18791a47d88a279db2fec8bd60-Jackson, Ry]
Subject: RE: MEMORANDUM - Response to OIG Audit Project No. OA-FY17-0382, EPA's Adherence to Policies, Procedures and Oversight Controls Pertaining to the Administrator's Travel, dated May 29, 2018
Attachments: MEMORANDUM - Audit Project No. OA-FY17-0382.pdf; Audit Objective 1.pdf; Audit Objective 1 and 2.pdf; Attachement - Objective 1.pdf

Good Afternoon:

Our apologies, it has come to our attention that the previously provided PDF response documents were incomplete, attached are replacement documents, thank you.

Bob Trent
OCFO/OC/PTAD/MIAB
202-566-0983

From: Proctor, Sheldonna **On Behalf Of** Conklin, Jeanne

Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 5:23 PM

To: Elkins, Arthur <Elkins.Arthur@epa.gov>

Cc: Bodine, Susan <bodine.susan@epa.gov>; Leopard, Matthew (OEI) <Leopard.Matthew@epa.gov>; Bloom, David <Bloom.David@epa.gov>; Osborne, Howard <Osborne.Howard@epa.gov>; Christensen, Kevin <Christensen.Kevin@epa.gov>; Jones-Peeler, Meshell <Jones-Peeler.Meshell@epa.gov>; Brookshire, Malena <Brookshire.Malena@epa.gov>; Packard, Elise <Packard.Elise@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>; Trefry, John <Trefry.John@epa.gov>; Anthony, Sherri <Anthony.Sherri@epa.gov>; Trent, Bobbie <Trent.Bobbie@epa.gov>; Monson, Mahri <Monson.Mahri@epa.gov>; Spriggs, Gwendolyn <Spriggs.Gwendolyn@epa.gov>; Bennett, Angela <Bennett.Angela@epa.gov>; Wong, Lela <Wong.Lela@epa.gov>
Subject: MEMORANDUM - Response to OIG Audit Project No. OA-FY17-0382, EPA's Adherence to Policies, Procedures and Oversight Controls Pertaining to the Administrator's Travel, dated May 29, 2018

On Behalf of Holly W. Greaves, Chief Financial Officer, OCFO



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 29 2018

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to Office of the Inspector General Audit Project No. OA-FY17-0382, "EPA's Adherence to Policies, Procedures and Oversight Controls Pertaining to the Administrator's Travel," dated May 29, 2018

FROM: Holly W. Greaves, Chief Financial Officer
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly W. Greaves".

TO: Arthur A. Elkins Jr., Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the Discussion Documents for Audit Objectives 1, 2 and 3. Attached are edits and comments to both documents on behalf of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Office of the Administrator, the Office of General Counsel and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance. We have addressed the recommendations contained in the Discussion Document for Audit Objectives 2 and 3 below.

Jeanne

Jeanne Conklin, CGFM, CGMS
Controller
Office of the Controller
Office of the Chief Financial Officer
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20460

(202) 564-5342 (o) **Ex. 6** cell



Message

From: Lyons, Troy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=15E4881C95044AB49C6C35A0F5EEF67E-LYONS, TROY]
Sent: 3/20/2018 10:14:18 PM
To: Hambleton, Ryan [Ryan.Hambleton@mail.house.gov]; rob.borden@mail.house.gov; Caroline.Nabity@mail.house.gov
CC: Ringel, Aaron [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1654bdc951284a6d899a418a89fb0abf-Ringel, Aar]; Rodrick, Christian [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6515dbe46dae466da53c8a3aa3be8cc2-Rodrick, Ch]
Subject: EPA's Formal Response: Air Travel 1/2
Attachments: Chairman Gowdy 3-20-18 (Air Travel).pdf; EPA Travel Voucher Production March 20 2018_Part1.pdf

Importance: High

All—Please find attached a letter responding to Chairman Gowdy’s February 20th inquiry. Due to the size of the responsive documents, I need to split the attachments into two emails.
Please forward to Ranking Member Cummings’ staff.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Many thanks,

Troy

Troy M. Lyons

Associate Administrator

Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6 (cell)



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 20 2018

OFFICE OF
CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your letter, dated February 20, 2018, regarding past air travel of Administrator Pruitt. The Administrator asked that I respond on his behalf.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Protective Service Detail has identified specific, ongoing threats associated with the Administrator's air travel and, therefore, shifted his class based on certain security protocols that require him to be near the front of the plane. This location allows the Administrator's security agents to expeditiously exit with him upon the occurrence of a threat. According to EPA's Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Administrator Pruitt "has had significantly more threats directed against him. There's absolutely no question about it."¹ In fact, EPA has received "at least four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than [the agency] had against Ms. [Gina] McCarthy."² In addition to the increased number of threats, the Assistant Inspector General explained that the threats "run the variety of direct threats – 'I'm going to put a bullet in your brain' – to implied threats – 'if you don't classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I'm going to hurt you.'"³ These threats are not limited to just Administrator Pruitt – they also target his family.⁴

Because of these ongoing security concerns, EPA had approved, on an individualized basis, each time the Administrator needed to use other than coach-travel accommodations. Federal Travel Regulations state that "[w]hen exceptional security circumstances require other than coach-class airline accommodations," an agency "may authorize/approve first class accommodations."⁵

¹ *Threats on rise via tweets, postcards and emails*, Greenwire (January 11, 2018). Available at <https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060070805>.

² *EPA pulls agents from criminal investigations to guard Pruitt*, CNN (November 28, 2017). Available at <https://www.cnn.com/2017/09/21/politics/epa-pruitt-agents/index.html>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *EPA Chief's First-Class Travel Prompted by 'Aggressive' Encounters, Official Says*, Bloomberg Politics (February 15, 2018). Available at <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-15/epa-chief-s-high-flying-travel-prompted-by-vulgar-encounters>.

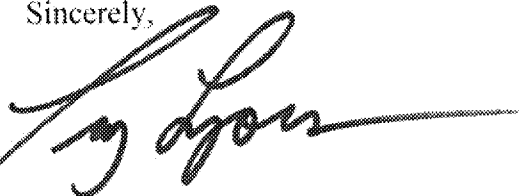
⁵ 41 C.F.R. § 301-10.123(a)(3).

Further, "exceptional security circumstances are determined by [an] agency and should only be authorized up to the minimum other than coach-class accommodation necessary."⁶ These circumstances include, but are not limited to, situations when the "[u]se of coach-class accommodations would endanger [one's] life or Government property" or an agent on protective detail is "accompanying an individual authorized to use other than coach-class accommodations."⁷ The regulations for an agency to approve/authorize business-class accommodations mirror those for first-class accommodations.⁸

Enclosed please find information and documentation responsive to your request for official air travel of the Administrator, including airfare and other travel information. On past trips, his protective service detail accompanied him in first class. Should you need information and documentation regarding the travel of the Administrator's Protective Service Detail, we can work with your staff to provide you with an opportunity to review those documents at EPA, as they are security sensitive.

If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Kyle Aarons in my office at (202) 564-7351 or Aarons.Kyle@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Lyons", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Troy M. Lyons
Associate Administrator

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ §§ 301-10.123(a)(3)(i), (ii).

⁸ See 41 C.F.R. § 301-10.123(b)(2).